# AFRO SAMURAI®

TAKASHI OKAZAKI

1

A TOR/SEVEN SEAS BOOK

# AFRO SAMURAI®

## VOLUME 1

TAKASHI
OKAZAKI

# AFRO SAMURAI®

VOLUME 1

story & art by Takashi Okazaki

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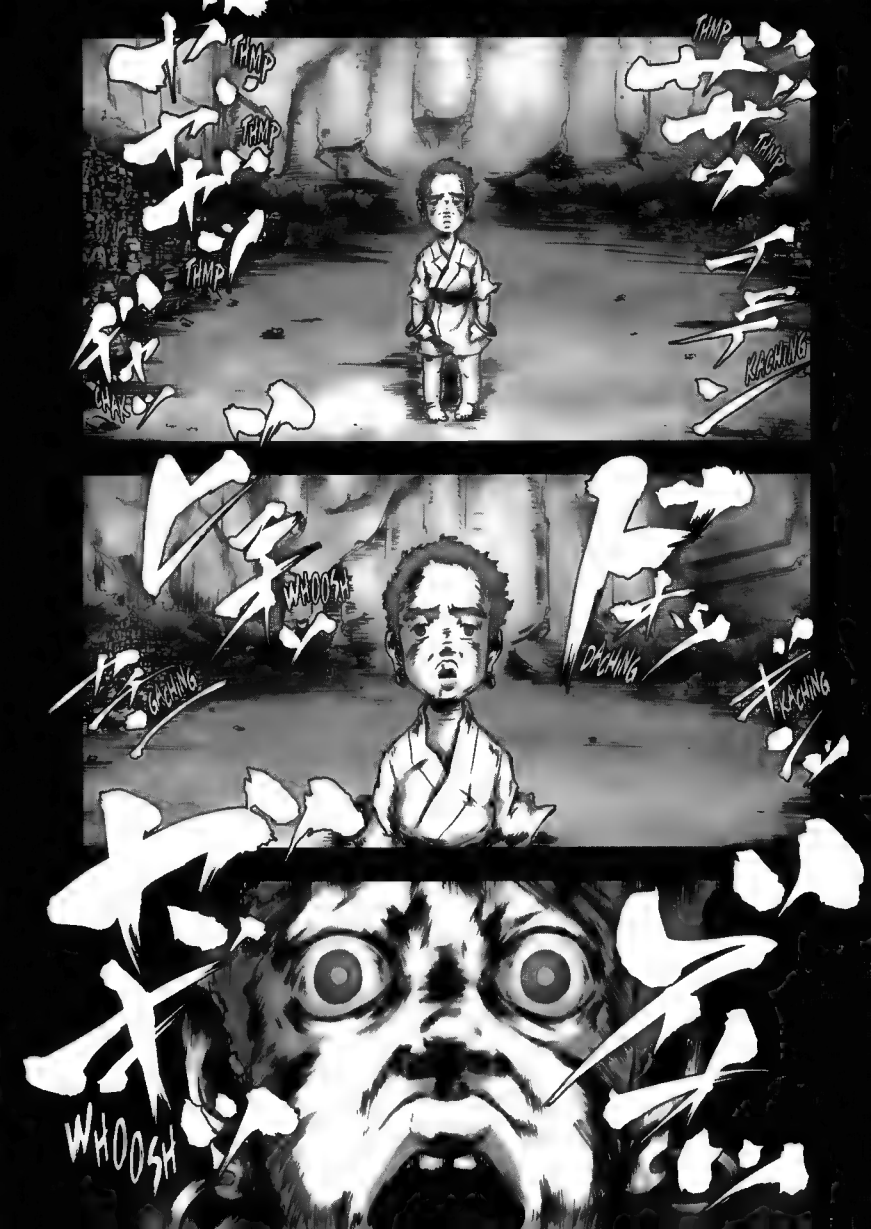
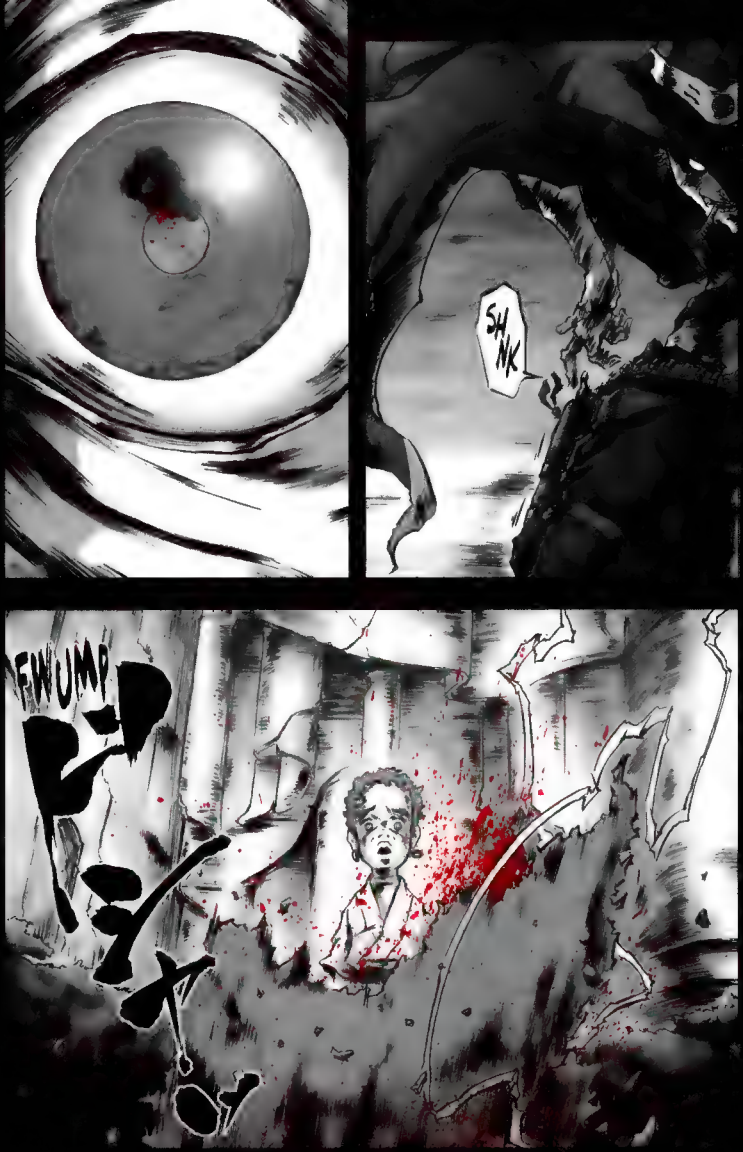
AFRO SAMURAI
#01

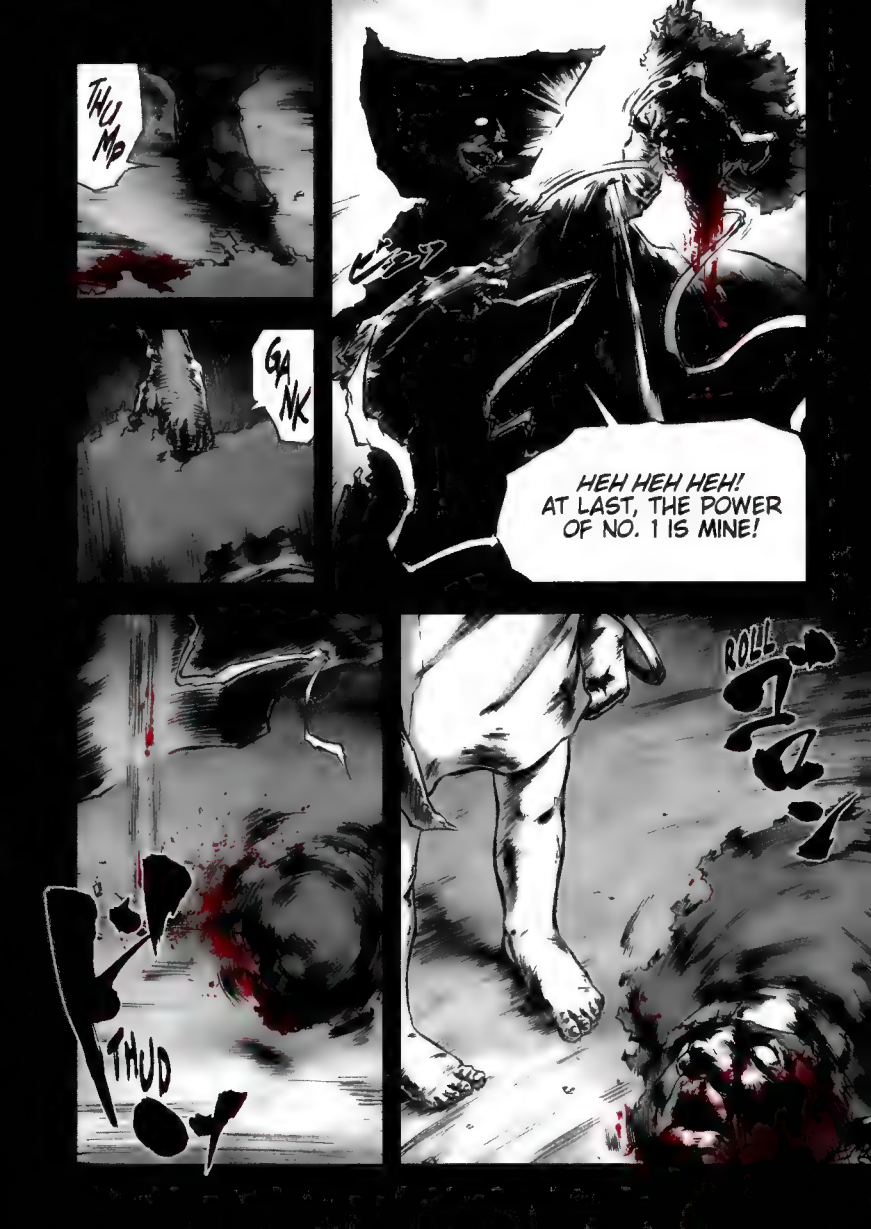
WAIT HERE...
IT'LL ALL BE OVER SOON.
SHF
FWP

THMP
LONG TIME NO SEE, NO. 1.
YEAH... LET'S DO THIS, NO. 2.

WHOOOOO
WHOOSH
WHOOSH


THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
CHAK
KLACHING
WHOOSH
CRCHING
DACHING
KACHING
WHOOSH


SHNK
FWUMP
ドン


THUMP
GANK
HEH HEH HEH!
AT LAST, THE POWER
OF NO. 1 IS MINE!
THUD
ROLL

NO...
THUMP
THE POWER OF A GOD!
FWIK
WAA HA HA HA HA!

HAAA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

YO, YOU WITH THE AFRO! KILLIN'S OUR THING, YA DIG? WE DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR LIFE. WHAT WE CARE ABOUT IS THE NO. 2 HEADBAND YOU'RE WEARING!
I DUNNO HOW MUCH THAT THING'S REALLY WORTH, BUT THERE'S A BIG OL' REWARD IN STORE!
NOW WE'RE NOT LOOKIN' TO KILL NO ONE WE DON'T HAVE TO. YOU'RE A KILLER, I'M SURE YOU UNDER-STAND.
AND, THEY DO SAY THERE'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS... RIGHT?
SHK
SO HOW'S ABOUTJUST HANDING IT OVER NICE AND EASY?
FWK

. . . .

SHK

HEH...LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T QUITE GRASP THE SITUATION! FINE!
SHHHHH

K-CHA

GHAAK

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

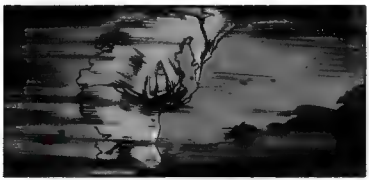
SHK
SHF SHF
FWIP
YO! THINK YOU CAN DO A QUICK-DRAW WITH THAT LONG SWORD? I THINK THE "TOUGH GUY" HERE'S MOCKING US! HEH... THIS'LL BE A LAUGH!
CHA

KILL 'EM!!
K-CHIK
BANG
SHIN-EEEN

GAH!
GWAH!
Y...YOU SLICED THROUGH THE BULLET?!
THAT'S... IMPOSSIBLE...!
SHEEEN
HE'S FUCKING WITH US!
SHOOM
FWIP

SHWIP
UWA!
GUHH!!
SPIERCH
WHOOSH

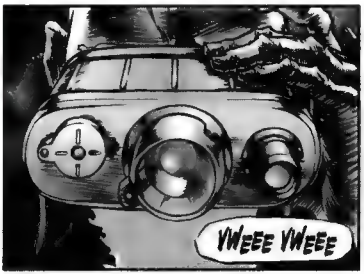
PYOO



SHK
SHK
SHK
WHOOSH

GAK!!
SWWWIK
GYAH!
KASHEEN

UGAH!


YWEEE YWEEE

OHOHO. ALL THOSE PROFESSIONALS AND THEY STILL COULDN'T BEAT HIM.
SCRTCH
SCRTCH

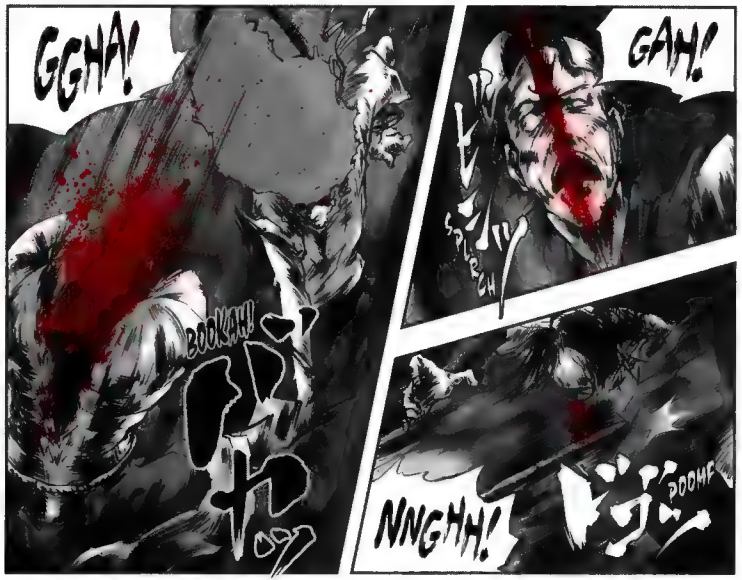
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO MAKE IT THIS FAR PAST MY TRAPS. HE REALLY IS NO. 2.

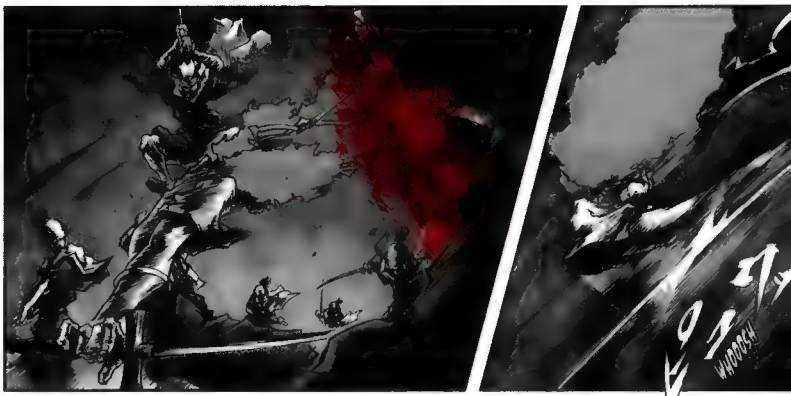
THAT HEADBAND ISN'T JUST FOR SHOW. IT'S PROOF THAT HE'S THE SECOND STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD.
VWEEE

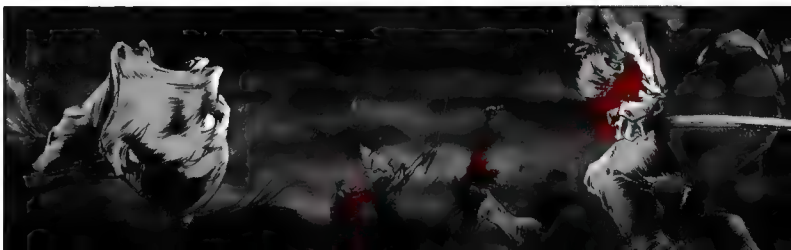
IT SEEMS ANNIHILATING HIM WILL TAKE SOME TIME... HOHO, I SUPPOSE I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND STARING LIKE THIS FOREVER.
SCRTCH
SCRTCH

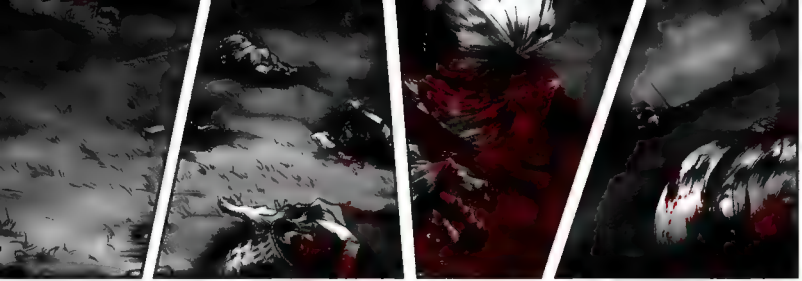
AT THIS POINT, IT'S OUT OF MY HANDS.
SH MP

TIME TO HAND IT OVER TO MY BROTHERS UP IN TECCHISEN. OHOHO.
GRIN


GGHA!
GAH!
SPLECH
BOOKAH!
NNGHH!
BOOMF


WHOOSH

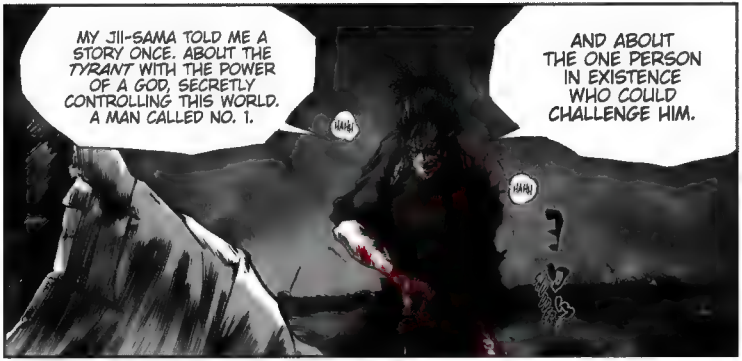




CHING

THK

HEHEHEHE... TOTAL ANNIHILATION IN THREE MINUTES. YOU'VE GOT A HELL OF A SWORD ARM.


MY JII-SAMA TOLD ME A STORY ONCE. ABOUT THE *TYRANT* WITH THE POWER OF A GOD, SECRETLY CONTROLLING THIS WORLD. A MAN CALLED NO. 1.
HAHH
AND ABOUT THE ONE PERSON IN EXISTENCE WHO COULD CHALLENGE HIM.
HAHH
?

YOU'RE *HIM*, AREN'T YOU? I NEVER THOUGHT IN A MILLION YEARS THE STORY WAS TRUE. *HEH...*
HAHH
HAHH

BAD TIME TO REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT, HUH?
HAHH

JUST TELL ME THIS AND WE'LL CALL IT A *PARTING GIFT*. WHY DO YOU WANT TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE WORLD?

FERK

SHHH

IT'S JUST REVENGE.
HEH... REVENGE...
HAHH
HAHH
WHAT A JOKE...
CLANG
FWUM

WELL... TIME TO GIVE BIG BROTHER A CALL.
BEEP
BEEP
YES, THIS IS ONE.
IT'S BROTHER TWO.
ALL OF OUR ASSASSINS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY SLAUGHTERED. HE TOOK THE EASTERN ROUTE FROM *IPPONMATSU*, WHICH MEANS HE SHOULD END UP PASSING RIGHT THROUGH *TECCHISEN*.
*HEH*, IS THAT RIGHT? SO HE IS COMING HERE. JUST AS I THOUGHT.

TWO, YOU'VE DONE WELL. GO AHEAD AND START MAKING YOUR WAY BACK HOME.
WE'VE GOT PREPARATIONS IN PROGRESS TO INTERCEPT HIM.
MM...
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WE'VE GOT ALL THE DATA YOU'VE COLLECTED ON NO. 2. OUR COUNTER STRATEGY IS INFALLIBLE.
WE JUST NEED TO TAKE THAT HEADBAND FROM HIM TO OBTAIN THE "DIVINE POWER."
IT IS THE DESTINY OF THE EMPTY SEVEN TO WIELD THAT POWER. EHHHEHEHEHEH...

YO!

WHICH WAY?

DAMN, MAN, YOU NEVER CHANGE, DO YA? YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T EVEN GIVE ME A SIMPLE FRIENDLY *GREETING* AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

Y'KNOW YOU NEED ME IF YOU EVER GON' MAKE IT TO WHERE NO. 1'S HIDIN' ON *MT. SUMERU*. HOW 'BOUT SHOWING A LITTLE 'PPRECIATION?

WHERE'S NO. 1?!
UH...THAT WAY... MAYBE?
WHIP
DAMN, MAN. FINE THEN...
FWIP
WELL HOW 'BOUT THAT? NOT A SINGLE WORD OF THANKS, AS USUAL.
SHIP
I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN BOTHER.
DAMN...

END OF #01

# AFRO SAMURAI

#02

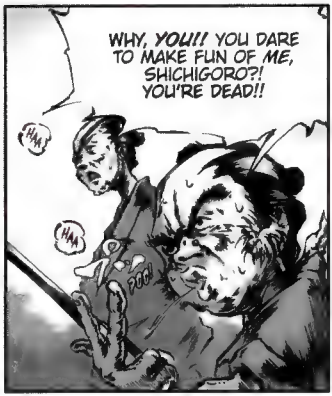
TOOM
TOOM
TOOM
TOOM
PATA
PATA
PATA
PATA

HEYYY! HEYYY!
STOP RIGHT THERE,
DAMMIT!!

OIOIOI!
TODAY WE SETTLE THIS, YOU BASTARD!!
HAH
HAH
HUFF
HAHH
HAHH
PANT
PANT
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

OH, WHY THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE AFTERNOON SQUAWKING OF *KASHIMOTO!* HOW'S THE ARM DOING, YOU OLD DOG?
KASHI-MOTO!

PFF

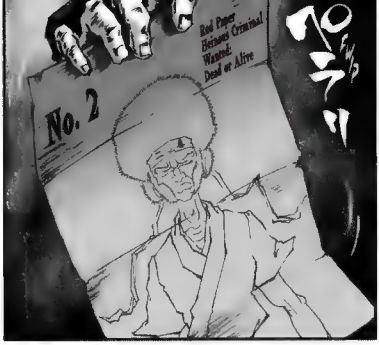

WHY, *YOU!!* YOU DARE TO MAKE FUN OF *ME*, SHICHIGORO?! YOU'RE DEAD!!
HAH
HAH
FOO!

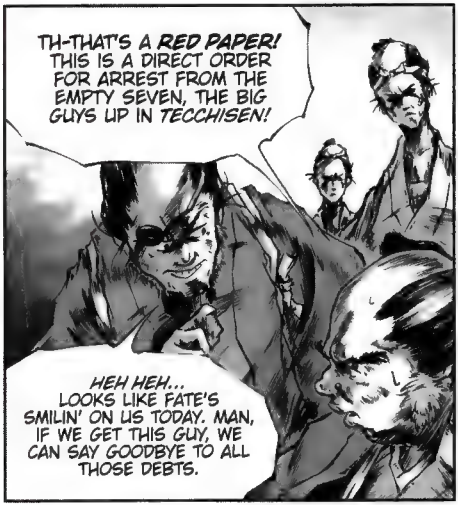
NOW, NOW, WE DON'T WANT TO CAUSE AN ACCIDENT HERE. LET'S GET AWAY FROM THIS ROAD, HUH?
GET AWAY!
H...*HUH?*

HEY, YOU! YEAH, *RONIN* OVER THERE! WOULD YOU BE SO KIND? SORRY TO BUG YOU WHILE YOU'RE RESTING, BUT...
BUT!

SORRY, KOTARO, NO FISHING TODAY. NOW SCAMPER ON BACK TO OI-CHAN'S PLACE.
OKEY!
CUT THE CRAP, SMART-ASS! NOW'S NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE!
!
B...BOSS!
SKRAGH
OW, THAT HURTS, YOU IMBECILE! WHATTAYA WANT?!

THAT GUY... HE'S--!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


Red Paper
Heinous Criminal
Wanted:
Dead or Alive
No. 2


TH-THAT'S A RED PAPER! THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER FOR ARREST FROM THE EMPTY SEVEN, THE BIG GUYS UP IN TECCHIISEN!
HEH HEH... LOOKS LIKE FATE'S SMILIN' ON US TODAY. MAN, IF WE GET THIS GUY, WE CAN SAY GOODBYE TO ALL THOSE DEBTS.

C'MON, NOW, IF WE'RE GONNA DO THIS THING, LET'S DO IT ALREADY!

SHICHIGORO! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU ANYMORE!
GO CHASE YOURSELF SOMEWHERE!!

EH...?
GENTLEMEN! WE GO NOW!
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, GUESS I'LL JUST GO HOME. HEH HEH.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
OIOI! STOP RIGHT THERE, AN-CHAN!!
HEY! YOU'RE THAT NO. 2, AREN'T YOU?!
WELL, WELL! I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT ALL ELEVEN OF US MIYAKO-DORI ELEVEN WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU. CAN'T LET A DEMON LIKE YOU JUST WALTZ INTO OUR INN!
NO OBJECTIONS, I PRESUME?!

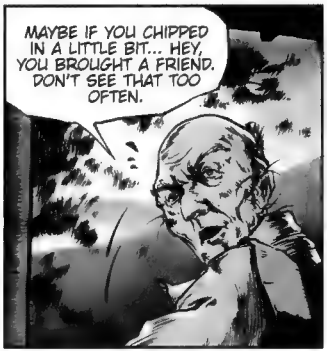
CHARGE!
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
HYAAA!
ARRR!!
THK!
GAAAHH!
GYA-AH!
HGHURR!
URGH!
GYAAAH!!

CHING

HOLY COW! MAN, YOU'RE GOOD!! I MEAN, WOW!!
THANKS FOR THAT. THOSE GUYS WERE ALWAYS COMING AROUND HASSLING ME.
HOW'S ABOUT LETTING ME SHOW MY GRATITUDE?
THERE'S AN INN UP THE ROAD WITH A KILLER *ODEN* STAND INSIDE. WELL, ACTUALLY, THE FOOD'S NOT GREAT, BUT THEY'VE GOT SOME KILLER *SAKE* FOR A VENDOR'S STAND.
LET ME BUY YOU A DRINK, HUH?

WE'RE BACK, OLD FRIEND! SAY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING SETTING UP SHOP OUT HERE AGAIN?

WELL, IF I SET UP INSIDE THE INN, THEY CHARGE ME. AND I'VE GOT ENOUGH DEBTS AS IT IS. OH WELL...
OCCHAN!


MAYBE IF YOU CHIPPED IN A LITTLE BIT... HEY, YOU BROUGHT A FRIEND. DON'T SEE THAT TOO OFTEN.

YEAH, THOSE GUYS WERE PICKING A FIGHT AGAIN JUST NOW AND HE CAME TO MY RESCUE.
?

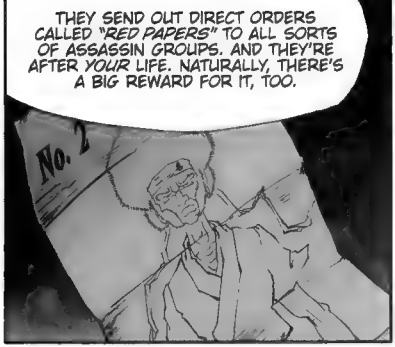
GIVE US A BOTTLE OF THE BEST, AND MAKE IT PIPING HOT, AS USUAL. LET'S HAVE SOME ODEN TOO.
KCHUU!

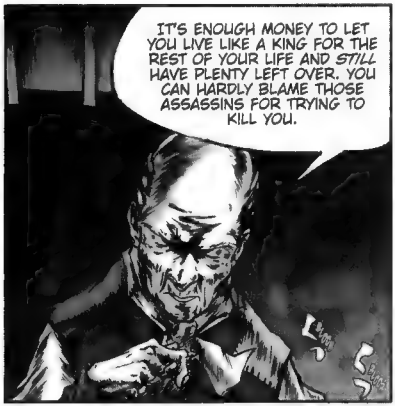
SO HOW 'BOUT IT, AFRO? WET YOUR WHISTLE?
PHIK
NO...
NOT A DRINKER, HUH? WELL, EXCUSE ME WHILE I HELP MYSELF.
GLOUP
GLOUP
GULP
WHOAA, THAT'S GOOD!!
GULP
GULP
WHOAA, THAT'S GOOD!!
YOU THINK SO TOO, KOTARO? HAHAHAHA!
CHEW
CHEW

SO THOSE GUYS FROM BEFORE, THEY WERE THE MIYAKO-DORI CLAN, A BUNCH OF HUSTLERS WHO RUN THE SHOW HERE AT THIS INN. THEY WERE ALWAYS PUSHING AROUND US PEOPLE JUST TRYING TO MAKE AN HONEST LIVING.
THANKS TO YOU, THINGS OUGHT TO STAY PRETTY QUIET AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE. UNTIL THE NEXT GANG COMES ALONG, ANYWAY. HAHAHA!
WAHHHH
WHAT'S THAT? BEDTIME ALREADY, KOTARO?
YEP.
SORRY, LEMME PUT THE BRAT TO SLEEP.
BE BACK SOON.
SWIP
OI-CHAN, KEEP HIM HERE FOR A WHILE, WILL YA? WE'VE GOT MORE DRINKING TO DO TONIGHT!
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SURE THING.
SWIP
SWIP

SO YOU'RE THE FABLED NO. 2...?
MUNCH
NOW, JUST HOLD ON.
RELAX. IF I WANTED TO KILL YOU, I WOULD'VE ALREADY TRIED.
YOU'VE GOT THE FACE OF A GUY WHO'S BEEN MADE A TARGET AT EVERY TURN. LIKE YOU'VE SPENT EVERY DAY SLIPPING THROUGH THE FINGERS OF DEATH.
YOU MUST REALLY BE SOMETHIN' TO MAKE IT THIS FAR.
THE ONES AFTER YOU ARE A NEFARIOUS GROUP. THEY'RE THE KINGPINS LEADING ALL THE ASSASSINS OF THE WORLD.

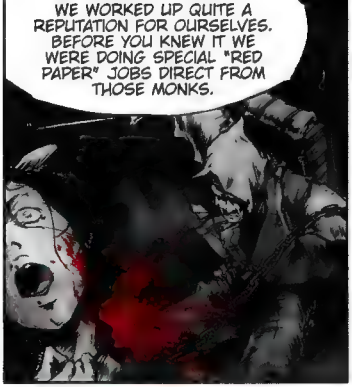
FIVE QUINTUPLET MONKS LIVING IN TECCHISEN, KNOWN AS THE "EMPTY SEVEN."


THEY SEND OUT DIRECT ORDERS CALLED "RED PAPERS" TO ALL SORTS OF ASSASSIN GROUPS. AND THEY'RE AFTER YOUR LIFE. NATURALLY, THERE'S A BIG REWARD FOR IT, TOO.
No. 2

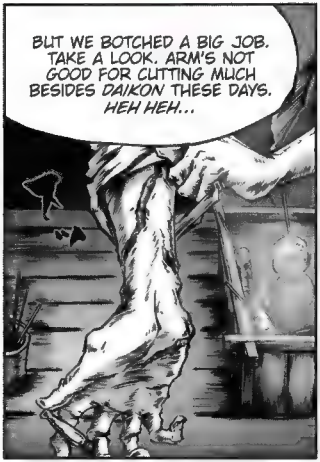

IT'S ENOUGH MONEY TO LET YOU LIVE LIKE A KING FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND STILL HAVE PLENTY LEFT OVER. YOU CAN HARDLY BLAME THOSE ASSASSINS FOR TRYING TO KILL YOU.

YOU'RE AWFULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE. HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

HEH HEH...WELL, SHICHIGORO AND I MADE A LIVING OFF KILLING ONCE TOO. WE TOOK COUNTLESS LIVES. JUST LIKE YOU.


WE WORKED UP QUITE A REPUTATION FOR OURSELVES. BEFORE YOU KNEW IT WE WERE DOING SPECIAL "RED PAPER" JOBS DIRECT FROM THOSE MONKS.

IF I WAS STILL ACTIVE, I WOULD'VE DONE BATTLE WITH YOU FOR CERTAIN.


BUT WE BOTCHED A BIG JOB. TAKE A LOOK. ARM'S NOT GOOD FOR CUTTING MUCH BESIDES *DAIKON* THESE DAYS. *HEH HEH...*

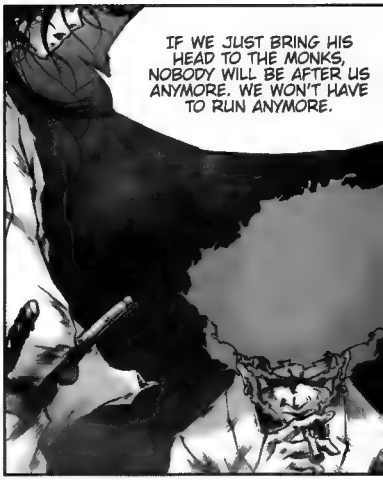
NO LONGER OF ANY USE, I BECAME ANOTHER ONE OF THE MONKS' TARGETS. BUT SHICHIGORO CAME TO MY RESCUE.

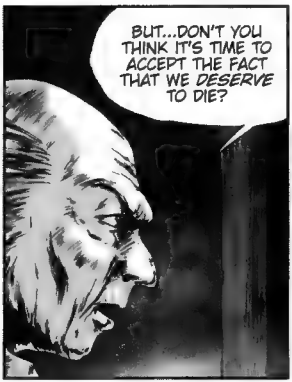
IT'S ALREADY BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE ALL THAT. NOW WE TRAVEL AROUND DRAGGING THIS ODEN STAND WITH US, SOMEHOW MANAGING TO SURVIVE.

BUT THAT ERA ENDS TODAY, OI-CHAN.
THMP

SHI-SHICHIGORO, YOU DON'T MEAN--

YEAH. I'M GONNA KILL HIM.


IF WE JUST BRING HIS HEAD TO THE MONKS, NOBODY WILL BE AFTER US ANYMORE. WE WON'T HAVE TO RUN ANYMORE.


BUT...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT WE *DESERVE* TO DIE?

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU AND ME, OI-CHAN. I DON'T WANT TO PUT KOTARO IN HARM'S WAY ANYMORE. PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND.

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS. LET'S GO, NO. 2.

BLOOD?!

SO THERE'S REALLY NO OTHER WAY, SHICHIGORO?
I WANTED TO LEAD YOU DOWN A BRIGHTER PATH.
YOU WERE A BOY RAISED BY THOSE OLD MONKS TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL OF DESTRUCTION, AND FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE DEDICATED MYSELF TO SAVING YOU.
BUT IN THE END, I COULDN'T EVEN DO THAT.

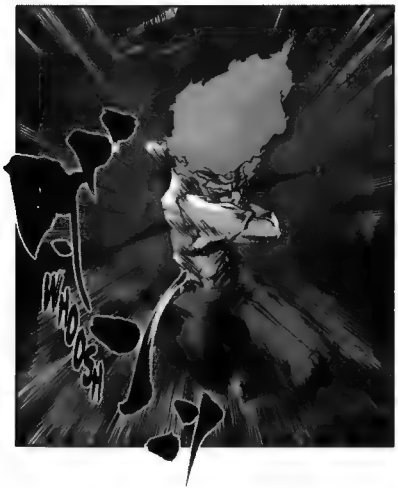
THERE WASN'T EVEN A HINT OF MURDEROUSNESS IN YOU WHEN YOU CUT DOWN THOSE MEN THIS AFTERNOON.

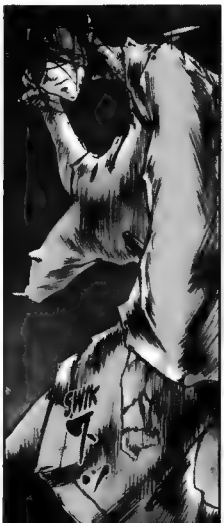
FOR YOU, KILLING IS NO DIFFERENT THAN TAKING A BREATH OF AIR. JUST LIKE I USED TO BE.

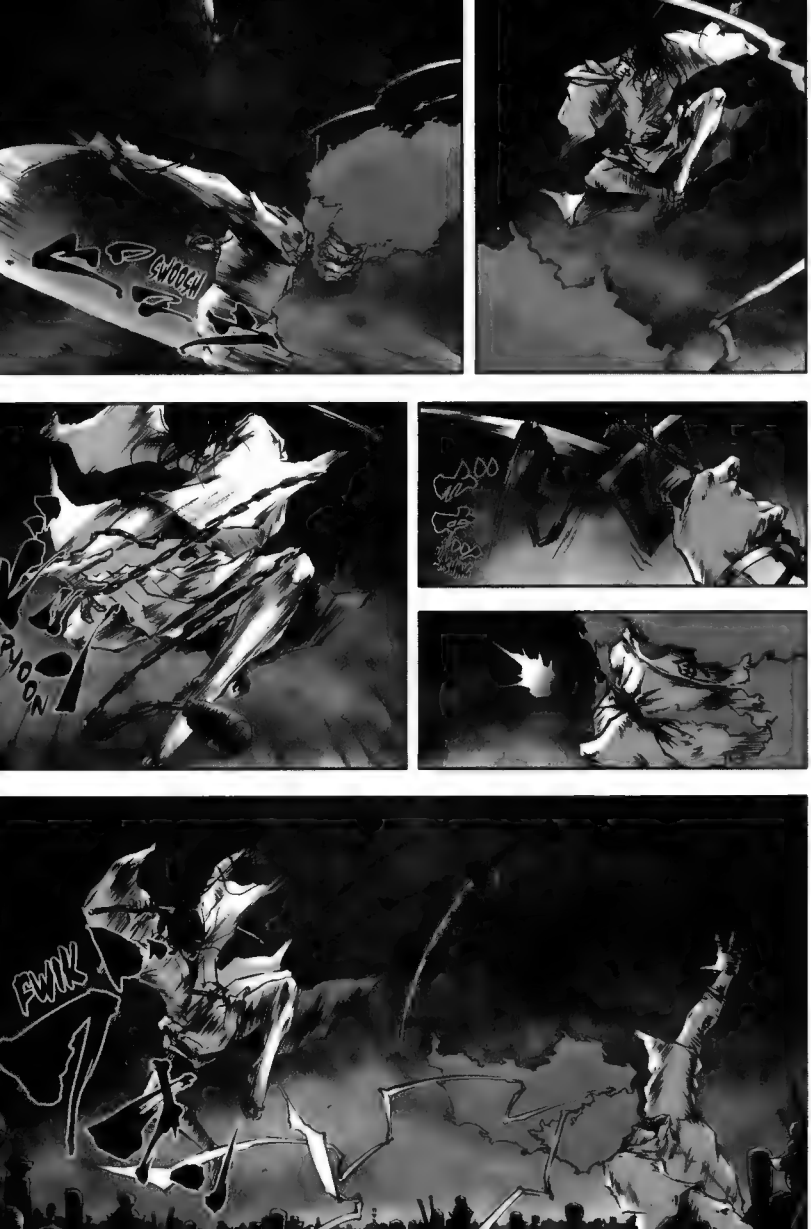
THERE'S NO PLACE IN THIS WORLD FOR DANGEROUS MEN LIKE US, DON'T YOU THINK?

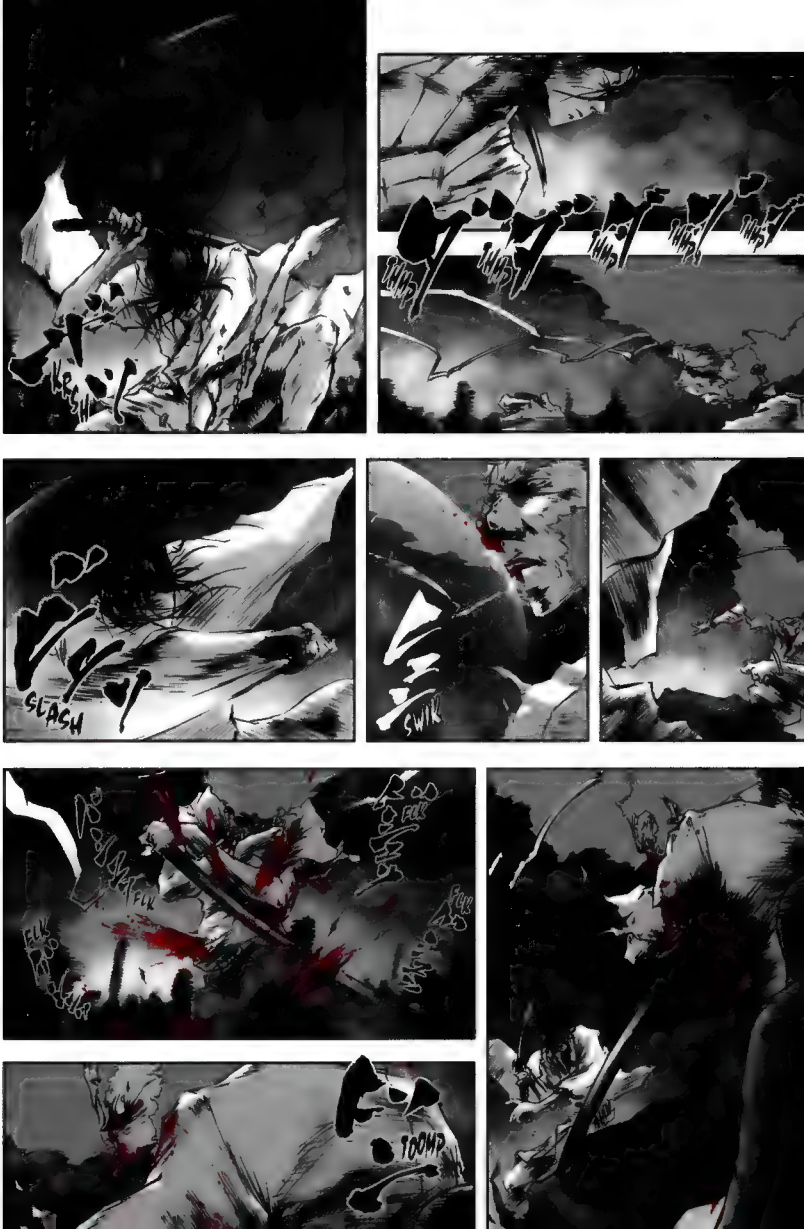
COME ON...

GRRR


WHOOSH


SHIK


SPOOSH
PHOOM
FWIK


SLASH
SWIK
FLIK
FLIK
FL

BWAAAN

SSSK
MAYBE...WE COULD'VE BEEN FRIENDS.
FWOOOSH

SHICHIGORO...YOU CAN REST NOW...
I'LL BE SURE AND RAISE THAT KOTARO OF YOURS RIGHT.
K...KOTARO...

OI-CHAN...
THANK YOU.
FWUMP
SHICHIGORO...
REST EASY NOW.

END OF #02

# AFRO SAMURAI

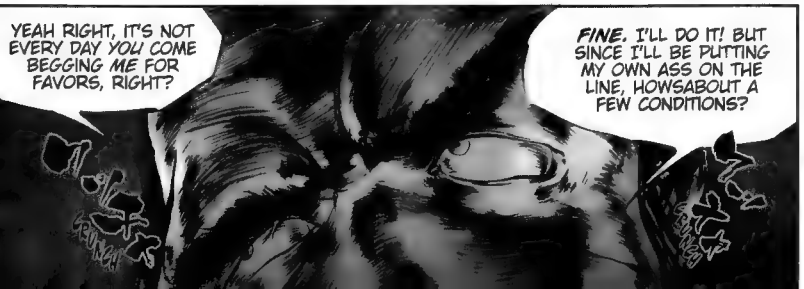
#03

YO, BROTHER ONE! YOU SEND YOUR ASSASSINS, AND INTERRUPT *MY* FESTIVITIES. IF YOU WANT ME DEAD, YOU COME KILL ME YOUR-OWN-DAMN-SELF!!!
GRUNCH
GRUNCH

*HA!* FEROCIOUS AS EVER, I SEE, GOROKUBE. ACTUALLY, IT SEEMS THAT *MAN* HAS SHOWN UP IN YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS. I WAS SIMPLY HOPING YOU COULD USE THOSE ASSASSINS AND GET RID OF HIM.

SHIT, YOU MEAN THAT PUNK YOU'VE BEEN GUNNING FOR ALL THESE YEARS? I CAN HANDLE THAT AFRO'D ASSHOLE ALONE!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

*MM*, WELL MAYBE, BUT YOU MUSTN'T UNDERESTIMATE HIS STRENGTH. I WOULDN'T BE ASKING YOU IF HE *WASN'T* A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.


YEAH RIGHT, IT'S NOT EVERY DAY *YOU* COME BEGGING *ME* FOR FAVORS, RIGHT?
*FINE.* I'LL DO IT! BUT SINCE I'LL BE PUTTING MY OWN ASS ON THE LINE, HOWSABOUT A FEW CONDITIONS?
GRUNCH
GRUNCH

I KILL HIM, AND I GET *EVERYTHING* YOU HAVE! YOUR MOUNTAIN, AS WELL AS YOUR MONEY, YOUR WOMEN, YOUR ASSASSINS...*EVERYTHING!* HOW'S THAT SOUND, POPS?
KRAK
UNNNHHH
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU GIVE ME MUCH CHOICE. FINE THEN, I ACCEPT YOUR CONDITIONS. BUT JUST REMEMBER--THIS IS *ONLY* IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS HEAD. NOTHING ELSE COUNTS.
1
UNDERSTOOD?! HIS HEAD, OR--?
BROTHER... SHOULD YOU REALLY HAVE ACCEPTED THOSE TERMS?
PUFF!
PUFF!
PUFF!
THAT ROTTEN BUFFOON MIGHT *REALLY* BE ABLE TO BEAT NO. 2--

NO. A FIGHT TO THE DEATH BETWEEN THOSE TWO IS JUST WHAT WE NEED. WE WIN REGARDLESS OF *WHO* DIES. IF GOROKUBE WINS WE'LL JUST SEND THE ASSASSINS WE WERE GOING TO USE TO KILL NO. 2.
*HM*...SO IT'S LIKE HITTING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
FUCK THOSE ASSHOLES! I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH 'EM! I'LL USE NO. 2'S HEAD AS A SHIELD AND SEND 'EM ALL TO HELL!
AH... *AHHH--!*
THEN AGAIN, IF HE'S BEEN GIVING THOSE GEEZERS *THIS* MUCH TROUBLE...

HEH...NO. 2, HUH? SOUNDS LIKE HE'LL MAKE FOR A GOOD WARM-UP. I'LL PLAY WITH HIM FOR A WHILE, THEN KILL HIM. GAHAHAHA...

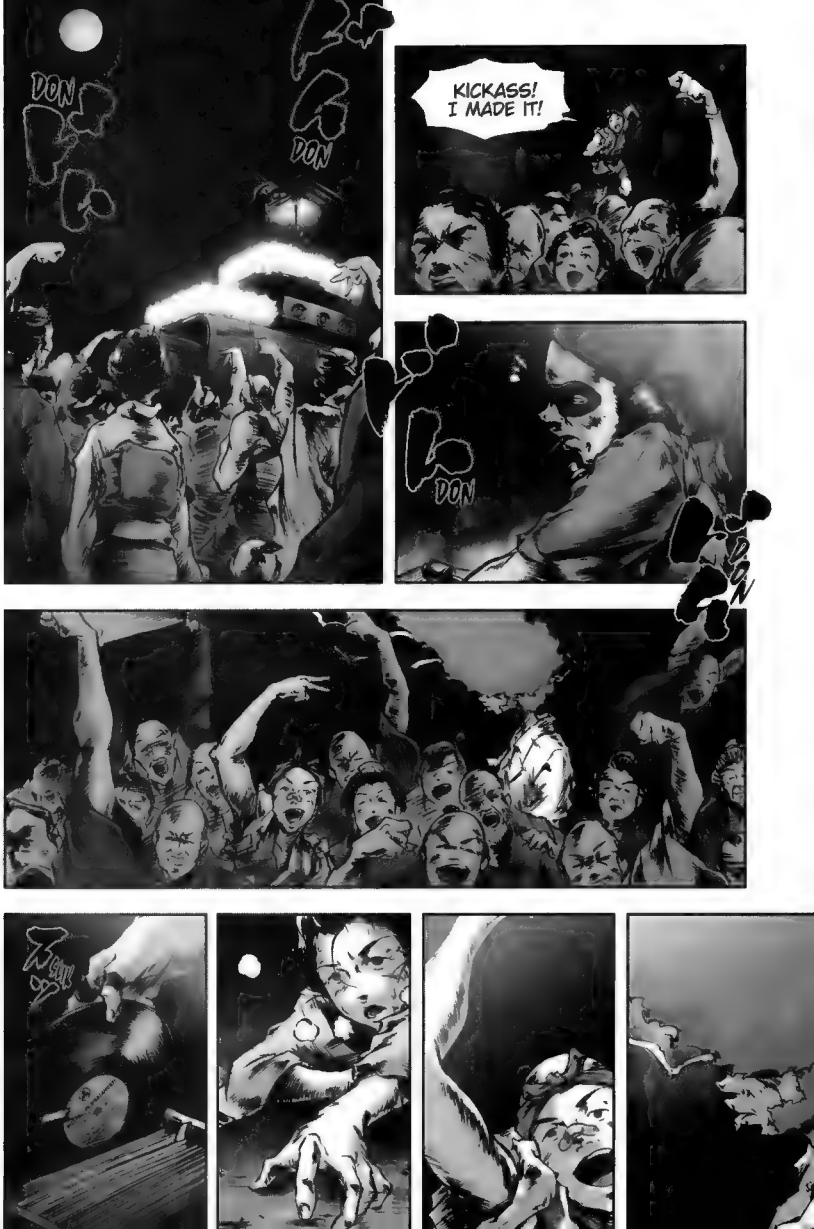
DON
DON
SHA
DON
SHA
DON
DON
SHA
DON

DON
DON
DON
DON
TING
TING
TING

DON
DON
SHA
SHA
HAA~...
NEE-CHAN, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, LET ME GO DAAANCE~! THIS YEAR'S FLOAT HAS A WICKED-ASS DJ ON IT! I'M TELLING YOU, NOTHING DANGEROUS EVER HAPPENS...C'MON, NEE-CHAN!
I'M SORRY, SHOUKICHI, BUT YOU NEED TO STAY HOME THIS TIME. ACCORDING TO THE OSHOU-SAN, SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN AT THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR. WEIRD SAMURAI HAVE BEEN COMING IN AND OUT OF TOWN LATELY... AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT'S BEST TO JUST STAY HOME AND KEEP QUIET.
HEEEY, SHOUKICHI! COME QUICK! THE FLOAT'S TAKIN' OFF!!
AHH! IT'S STARTING?!
CLANK
DON
DON
DON

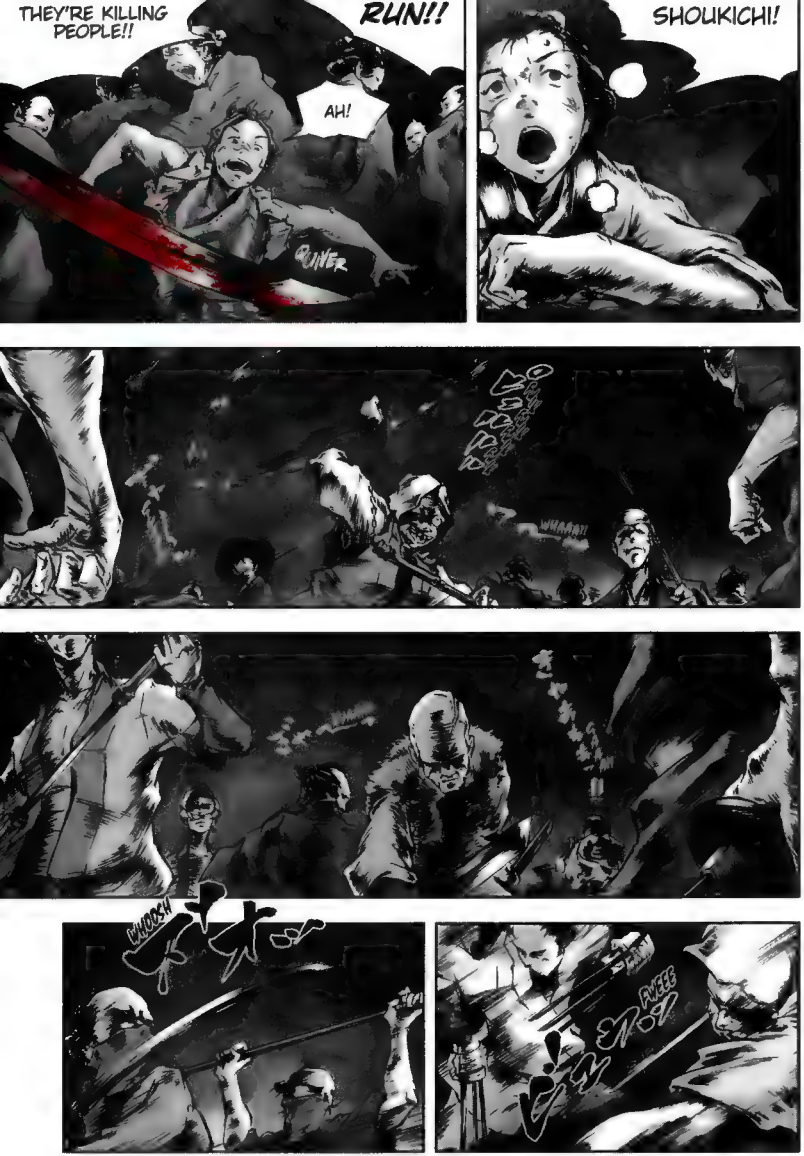
DON
DON
DON
DON
WOO
OOO
OOOO
OO
OO
OOO!
SHOUKICHI, PLEASE STAY HOME. I'M BEGGING YOU. THE OSHOU-SAN PRACTICALLY RAISED US AND HE'S *NEVER* BEEN WRONG. WHAT WOULD OUR DEAR DEPARTED MOTHER SAY IF I LET SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU?
SONG
WHY DO YOU ***ALWAYS*** LISTEN TO THAT DIRTY PRIEST?! YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO LET ME DANCE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T!!

HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?! DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD--
STOMP
WHATEVER! I'M GOING DANCING EITHER WAY!!
SHOUKICHI! WAIT!!
THMP
SORRY, NEE-CHAN.
AH!
SHOUKICHI...

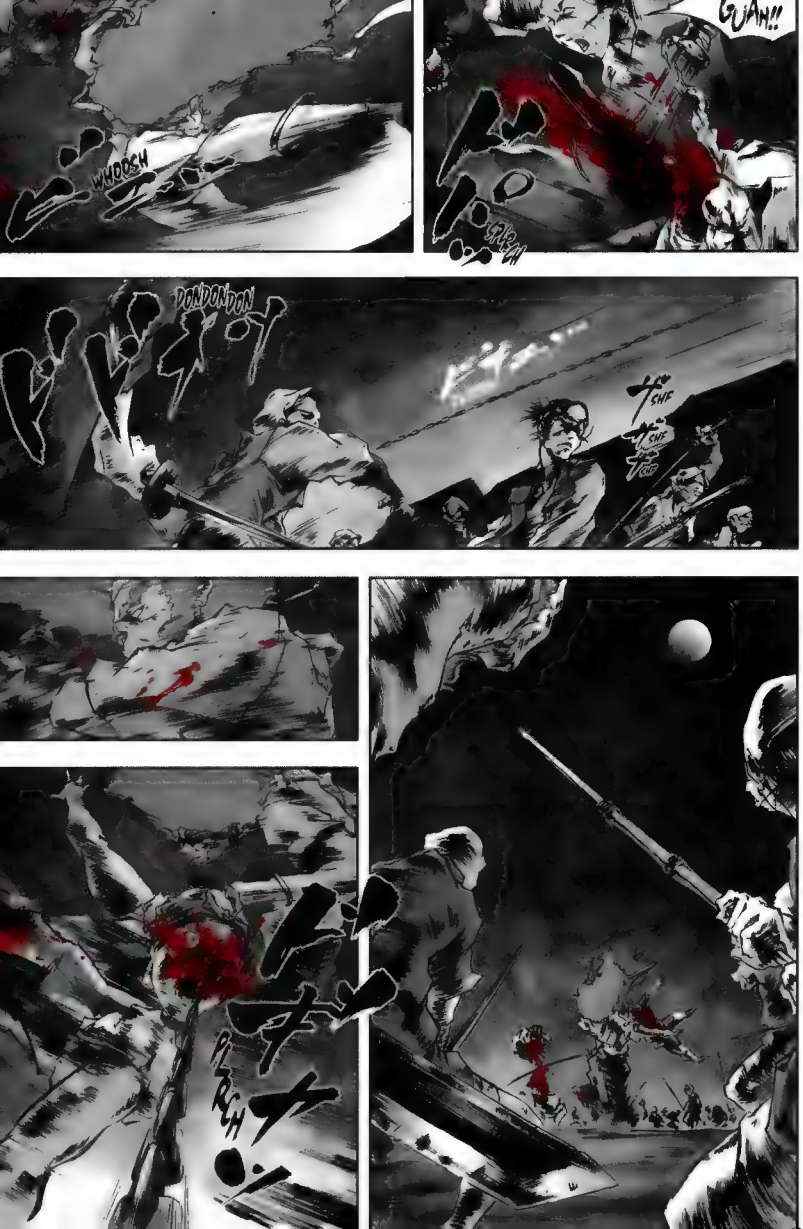

DON
DON
KICKASS!
I MADE IT!
DON
DON
SHH!

DODODON
DON
DON
WOOOO!
DON
DON
DON
DON
SSTK

DODON
DON
DON
SNK
KYAAA!!!
WOOOOO

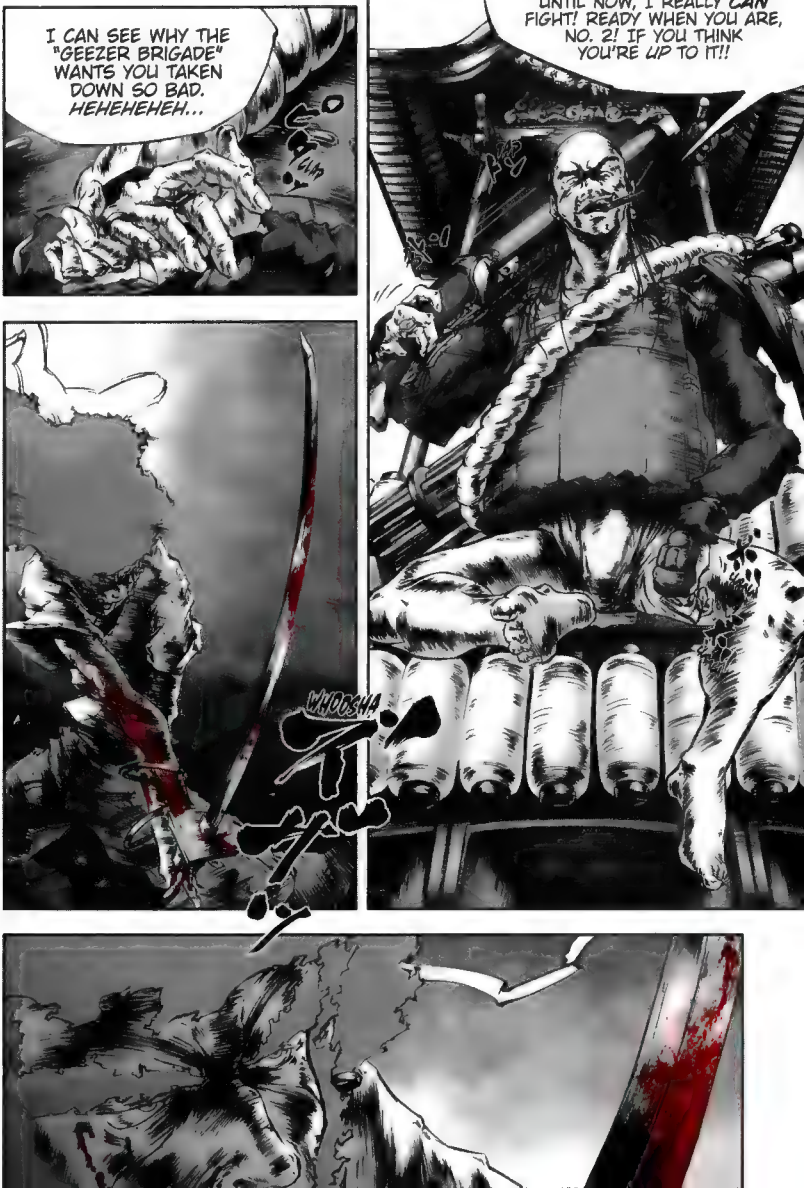

THEY'RE KILLING PEOPLE!!
RUN!!
AH!
SHOUKICHI!
WHAM!!
WHOOSH
SLASH
PWEEE

HUH?
SMASH
WHOOSH
NEE-CHAN...
SHIT!
BAM


WHOOSH
GUAH!!
DONDONDON
SHF
SHF
SHF
PIRCH

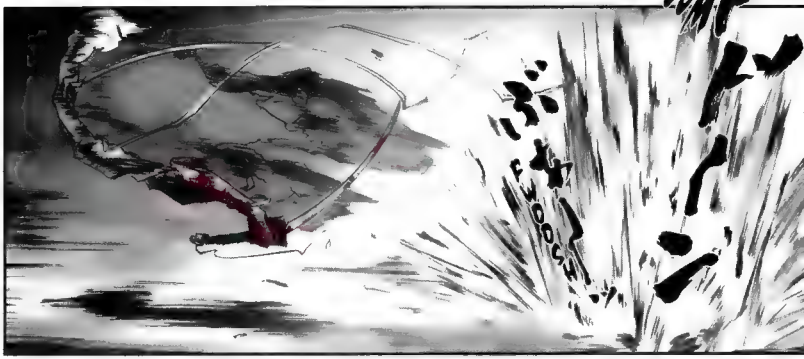
GACK!
WHOOSH
SPLECH
SWIK
GWAH!
POP
UWA!!
CRUNCH
MMPH!
GYAEEE!!
SPLASH
GWURGLE!!

KASHUMP
THAT. WAS. IMPRESSIVE, NO. 2.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


I CAN SEE WHY THE "GEEZER BRIGADE" WANTS YOU TAKEN DOWN SO BAD. HEHEHEHEH...
BUT UNLIKE ALL THE OTHER LITTLE PRICKS YOU'VE FOUGHT UNTIL NOW, I REALLY CAN FIGHT! READY WHEN YOU ARE, NO. 2! IF YOU THINK YOU'RE UP TO IT!!
WHOOSH

CHUNK
CHUNK
SCRATCH
LOVE
SCRATCH
CHUNK
CHUNK
CHUNK
HEY, C'MON! HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON MAKING ME WAIT AROUND?! I DON'T HAVE ALL DAMN DAY!
BYOING
CLIP
FINE, IF YOU WON'T GET THINGS STARTED, I'LL DO IT!

K-DOOM
K-DOOM


FWOOSH

EH?!

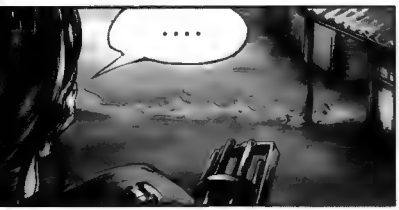
ROLL

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

GAHAHAHA! EVEN THE GREAT NO. 2 CAN'T DO NOTHIN' BESIDES RUN OFF AND HIDE AT THE SIGHT OF MY GREAT, BIG CANNON!
GA HA HA HA
BUT HIDING WON'T DO YA ANY GOOD!
WE'VE JUST GOTTEN STARTED. DON'T GO DYING ON ME JUST YET...
LET ME HAVE A TINY BIT MORE FUN FIRST... HEHEH...
BOOM
ボーン
EEEEEEEE

BOOOOOOM
SHP
SHP
SHP
SHP
GAHAHA!
NOW EAT THIS!!
CHK
CHK
RA-
TA-
TA-
TA-
KR...

THOK
THOK
THOK


....

WELL, *WHATEVER.* THE REAL FUN'LL COME WHEN I SLAUGHTER THOSE DAMN BROTHER-GEEZERS! LET'S JUST PUT AN END TO THIS ALREADY!
STOMP

HE'S JUST HIDING. IS *THIS JERK* WHAT ALL THE FUSS WAS ABOUT?
PICK
PICK

MAA
MAA
WHP

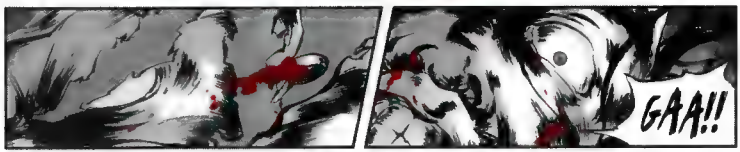
GRAB

MN?!

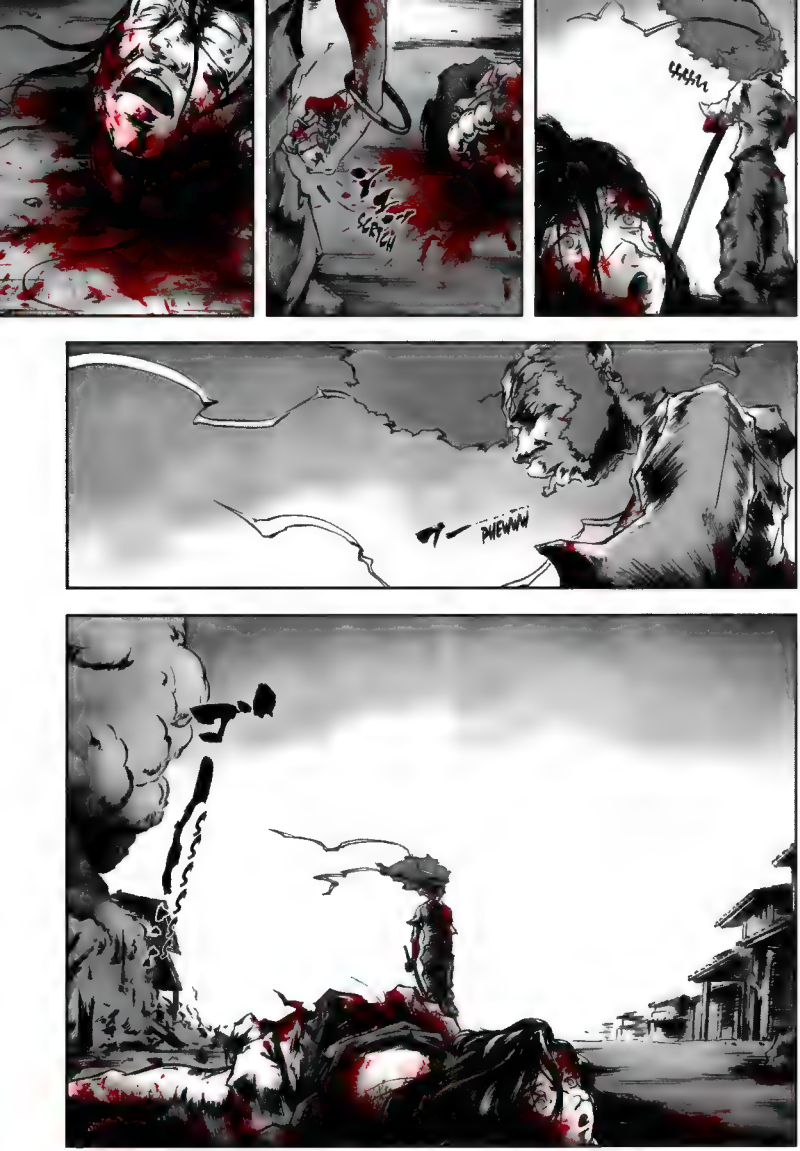
H...HOW COULD YOU... KILL SHOUKICHI? MY ONLY BROTHER!! HOW COULD YOU BE SO CRUEL?!
TUG
GIVE ME BACK MY BABY BROTHER! NOW!!!
HEH HEH HEH... CAN'T REALLY CALL IT HIDING IF YOU LEAVE YOUR STANK ASS AFRO STICKING OUT.
GET THE HELL OUT HERE! I'LL GIVE YOU A PAINLESS SEND-OFF TO THE NEXT LIFE! YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR MY MERCY!
DASH
THAT'S A GOOD BOY!!
RATATA

WHOOSH
WH-WH... WHAT THE?!
FLIK
DIE, YOU MAGGOT!!!
RATATATA
THWOK
THWOK
THWOK
THWOK

BAM


GAA!!

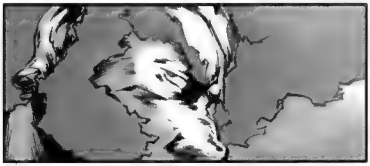
SWICK


SCRATCH
PHEWWW

'EYYY! YO! NO. 2! OVER HERE!
YO YO! I WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN THAT BIG-ASS EXPLOSION. DAMN! DIDN'T WANT TO BE WAITIN' AROUND HERE FOR NOTHING. HEH HEH HEH.
YO! IT'S BEEN AGES!
YEAH, MAN. AIGHT, LOOK, WE GOTTA GO BY BOAT FROM HERE. IF YOU JUST GO UP THIS RIVER FOR A FEW DAYS, YOU'LL GET TO A RAVINE. IT'S RIGHT BY MT. SUMERU, WHERE NO. 1 IS. FINALLY COMIN' TO THE END OF YOUR JOURNEY, M'MAN.
MT. SUMERU...
YEAH. BUT..

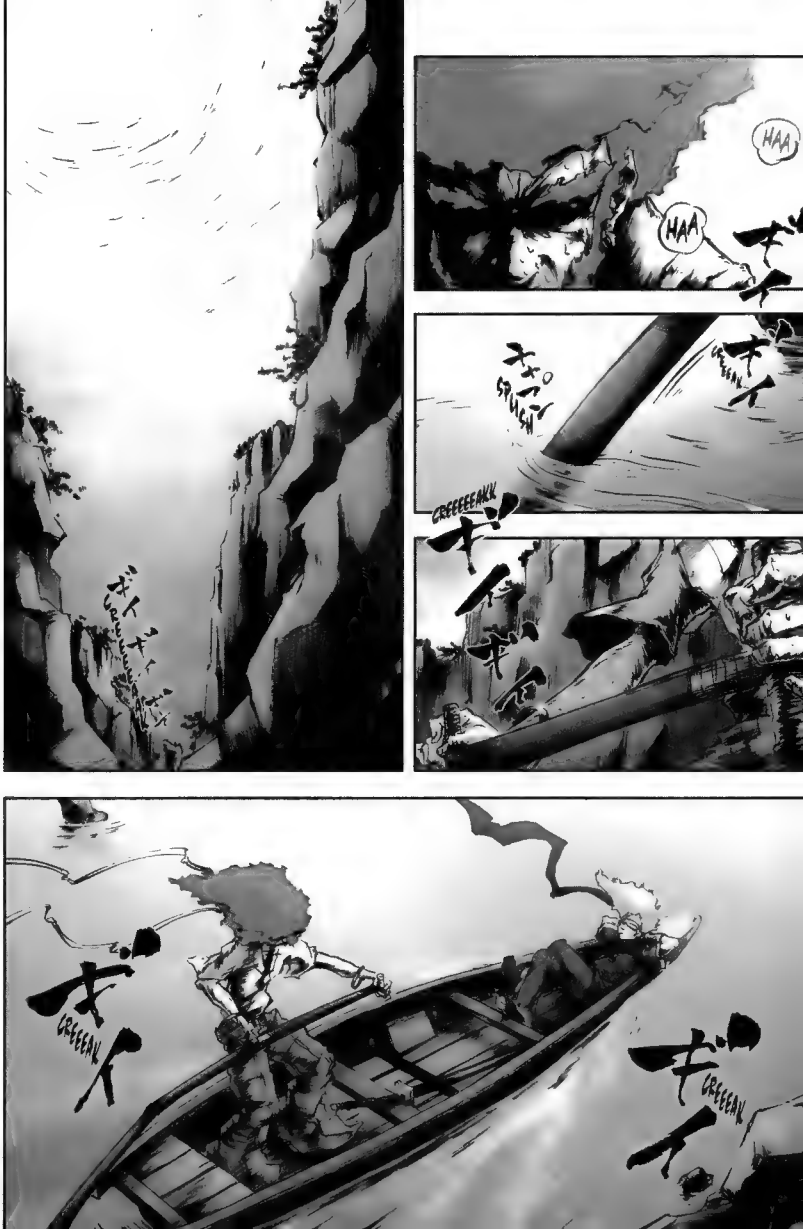
TO GET TO MT. SUMERU, FIRST YOU GOTTA PASS THROUGH *TECCHISEN*, THE HIDEOUT FOR THOSE DAMN OLD MOTHERFUCKERS. AND THERE'S NO DOUBT THEY'VE SET UP SOMETHIN' NASTY FOR YOU TO FALL INTO.
UHD

NO. 2, YOU *KNOW* YOU'VE ONLY SURVIVED THIS LONG ON ***LUCK.*** BUT THAT AIN'T GONNA DO YOU MUCH GOOD FROM HERE ON OUT. YOU SURE YOU WANNA KEEP GOING?



CLUNK

*HEH HEH HEH...* SO THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE, HUH? WELL, DON'T SAY I DIN'T WARN YA.
END of #03


HAA
HAA
SPLISH
CREEEEAKK
CREEEEAK
CREEEEAK

CREEAAK
PSH! HOW THE HELL'M I S'POSED TO GET ANY SLEEP WHEN IT'S A MILLION DEGREES OUT HERE? DAMN...
WHOA! THERE IT IS, THERE IT IS! CHECKITOUT, NO. 2.
CREEAK
THE BIGGEST MOUNTAIN OVER THERE IS MT. SUMERU.
CREEAK
MT. SUMERU...

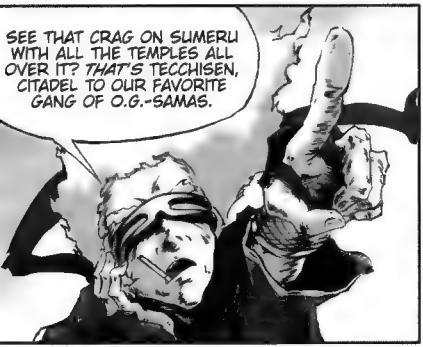
# AFRO SAMURAI

#04

VWEEE
HE'S COME, BROTHER. HE'S REALLY ROWING AWAY, TOO. OHOHOHO.
HEH HEH. I SEE. MANY THANKS, BROTHER.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, GENTLEMEN. THE PREY HAS ARRIVED.

IF YOU MANAGE TO BEST HIM, WE'LL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU DESIRE, JUST AS PROMISED!
YOUR TARGET IS JUST ONE MAN. IT'S AN EASY JOB.
NOW THEN, IN HONOR OF OUR AGREEMENT... PLEASE GET TO WORK.

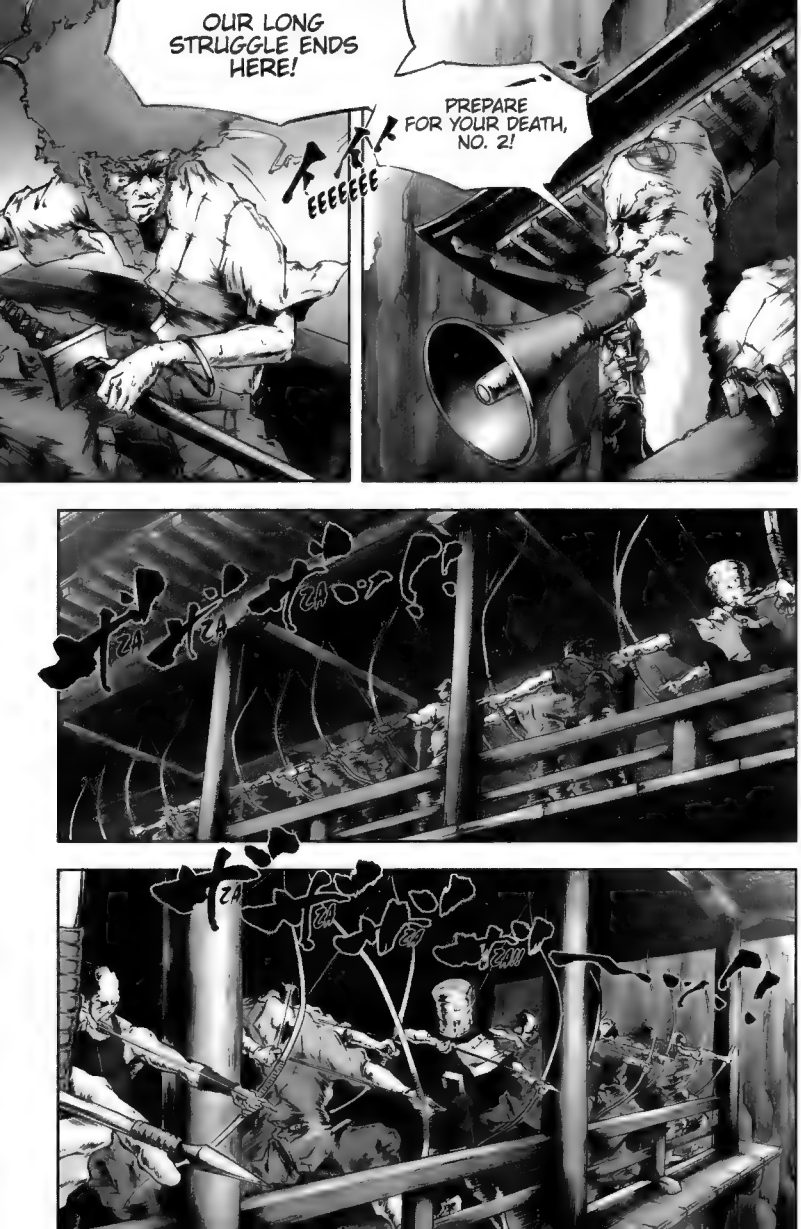
CRRRK
CREEEAK

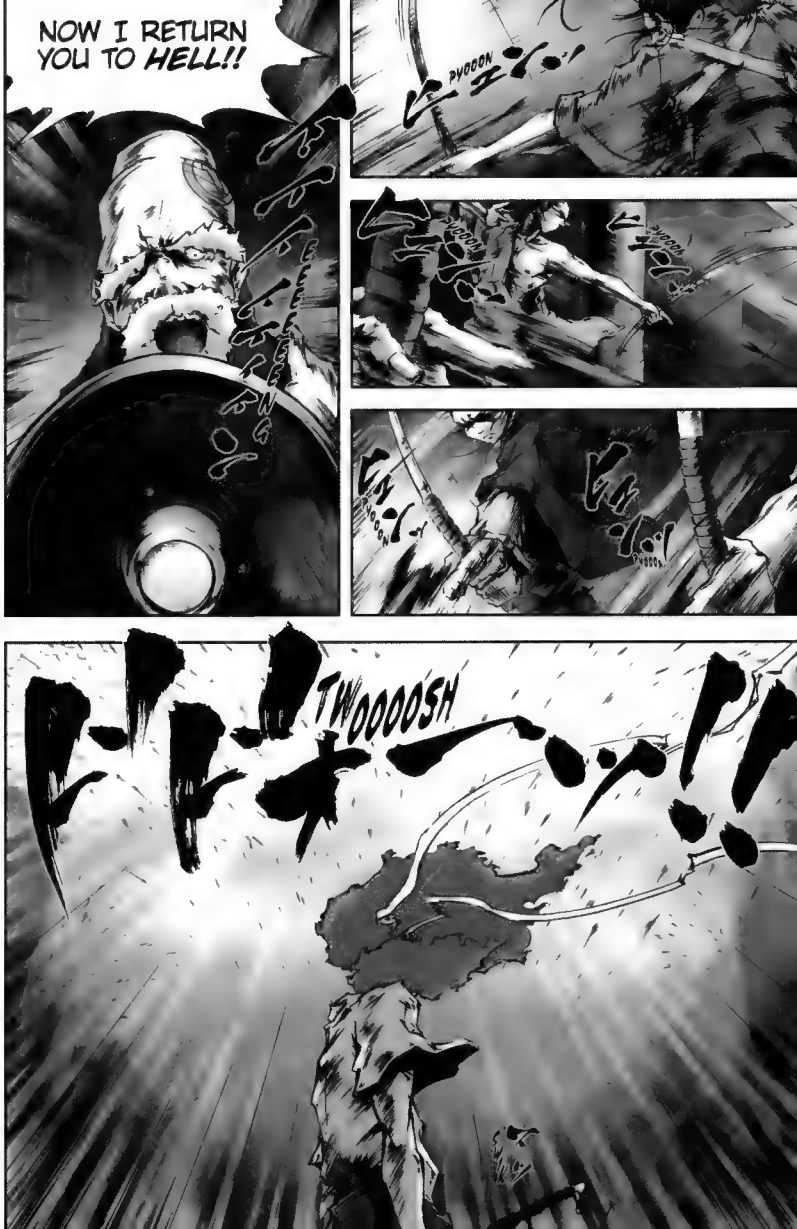

SEE THAT CRAG ON SUMERU WITH ALL THE TEMPLES ALL OVER IT? *THAT'S* TECCHISEN, CITADEL TO OUR FAVORITE GANG OF O.G.-SAMAS.

THEY SAY THAT TEMPLE WAS BUILT UP YEARS AGO TO PROTECT MT. SUMERU FROM BAD GUYS.

AND THERE'S NO WAY TO GET TO MT. SUMERU WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH THE MAIN BUILDING UNDER THAT BUDDHA STATUE'S ***FEET.***
I TELL YA, MAN, PEOPLE USED TO USE THEIR HEADS FO' *REAL!!* HEHEHEHEH...

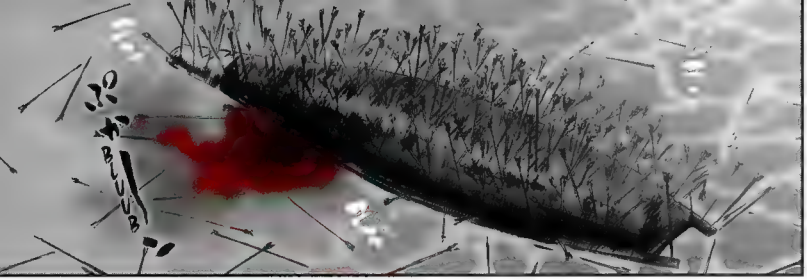
HEY HEY, I'M GETTIN' SOME KINDA BAD FEELIN' HERE.
I THINK I'LL GO AHEAD AND SLIP OUT FOR NOW. HEHEH.
JUST TRY NOT TO DIE, M'MAN. HEHEH.
WELCOME TO THE GATES OF HELL, NO. 2!
EEEEEEE


OUR LONG STRUGGLE ENDS HERE!
PREPARE FOR YOUR DEATH, NO. 2!
EEEEEEE
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA


NOW I RETURN YOU TO HELL!!
EEEE

SWIP
SWIP
SWIP

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH


BLUUB

HMPH...PATHETIC. I GUESS NO. 2 WAS HUMAN AFTER ALL.

ROKUTA. WHEN THE BOAT REACHES LAND, GO OUT THERE AND RETRIEVE THE HEADBAND. ONCE YOU'VE DONE THAT, GET STARTED ON EXTERMINATING THOSE ASSASSINS.
AS YOU WISH.

HMMM...IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE NO. 2 WOULD GO DOWN SO EASY.
CREEEEEAK...

ROKUTA. DO NOT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN UNTIL YOU'VE REMOVED HIS HEAD! I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED...

HEH...THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, BROTHER TWO. HE'S ALREADY DEAD.

WHOOSH
WHA!
GIVE ME THAT.
UH... YESSIR.
WHAT'S BROTHER TWO YAMMERING ABOUT? DOES HE *REALLY* THINK I COULD BE CUT DOWN BY *THIS* GUY?
THMP
***HMPH!*** IF YOU'RE REALLY SO TOUGH, COME FACE ME MAN TO MAN! IF YOU'RE ALIVE, I MEAN... *HAHAHA.*

OH! THERE HE IS! ROKUTARO, YOUNGEST OF THE EMPTY SEVEN! MAN, HE'S HUGE!
RUMOR HAS IT HE'S BEEN UNDER THE WING OF THOSE OLD GUYS SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE BRAT, LEARNING TO KILL. SCREWED UP, RIGHT?!
MMM...
BUT I WONDER IF WE'LL REALLY GET PAID FOR SUCH A WALK IN THE PARK.
DAAAAA!!!
WHAM!
GRRRRRASH!!!
HM?
WHA?!

OH, COME ON, WE DID OUR JOBS, DIDN'T WE? HAHAHA!
SNAP
HAHAHA. YEAH RIGHT.
Y'KNOW, I'M THINKING OF GOING STRAIGHT AFTER THIS JOB.
IT SEEMS KIND OF DUMB TO BE MAKING A LIVING PUTTING YOUR ASS ON THE LINE.
FUU

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ASK FOR? WE CAN ASK FOR AS MUCH AS WE WANT FROM THE BROTHERS, RIGHT?
EHH, ENOUGH TO FOOL AROUND THE REST OF MY LIFE, I GUESS. THREE THOUSAND RYOU, MAYBE?
KA-JUNK

WHAT, SERIOUSLY?! WOW, THEN I GUESS I'LL ASK FOR THE SA...??
?

ドクドク
ドクドク
ドクドク

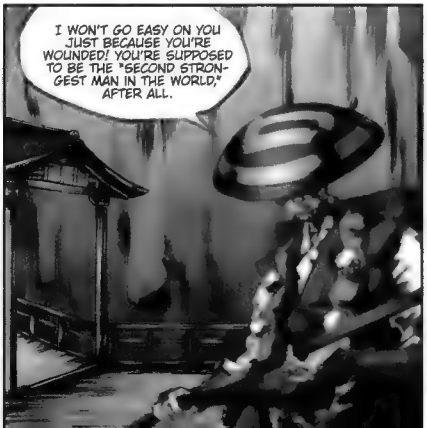
HM?!
GYAAA!
UWA!
HYAA!
BROTHER! COME LOOK! HE ISN'T DEAD YET!
WHAT?!
WHAT THE *HELL* ARE ROKUTA AND THE ASSASSINS DOING?!
THEY'RE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY. IT LOOKS LIKE ROKUTA'S ITCHING FOR A FIGHT.
SO... AFRO SURVIVED OUR ATTACK... WHAT'S HIS *CONDITION*?!
?
GUAH
HE'S SLICING THROUGH OUR ASSASSINS, BUT HE'S *WOUNDED* HIS DOMINANT ARM.
WHEEEE
HE MIGHT GET PAST THOSE BOTTOM-FEEDERS, BUT HE'LL NEVER LAST IN A FIGHT WITH ROKUTA. *HEHEHEH!*

NGAH!
UWO!
FSSSHHH!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
GEHHH!
GYAAAH!
SPUNK
WHIP

ゴオオオオオオオオ
WOOOOOOOOO

A MOST ROBUST PERFORMANCE, NO. 2. BUT I CAN NOT LET YOU PASS.
A SIMPLE CHALLENGE, NO. 2! I AM SHINOJIRYU BOUJUTSU ROKUTARO, YOUNGEST OF THE EMPTY SEVEN!
D-DOOM!!!

HEH. IF YOU DON'T DEFEAT ME, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO THE MAIN HALL, MUCH LESS MT. SUMERU.
GRIN
ニヤリ
CLANG


I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE WOUNDED! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE "SECOND STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD," AFTER ALL.

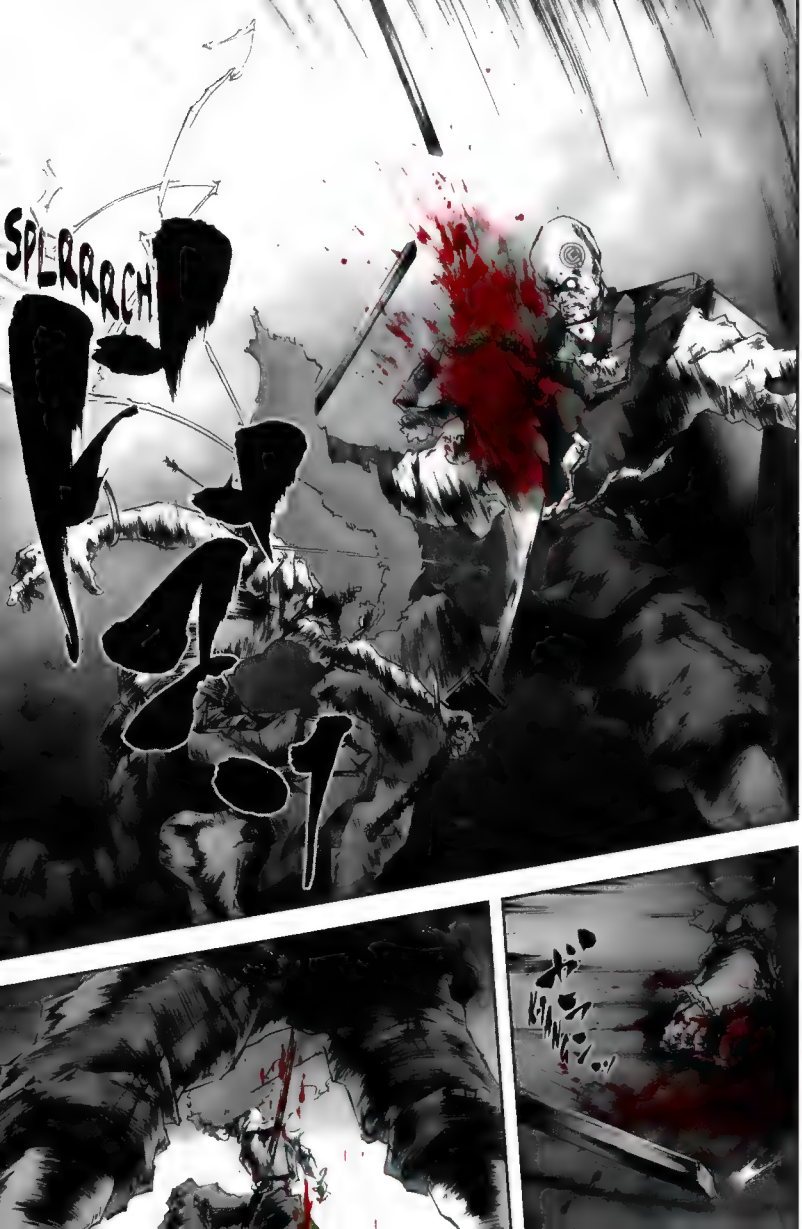
WOOOOO
NOW LET'S GO.
LET'S SEE WHAT THAT NUMBER TWO REALLY STANDS FOR.
SHEENG
HYAA!
THMP
THMP
FWOOOOSH

KA-CHING!!
SEEMS I UNDERESTIMATED YOU A BIT... YOU *ALMOST* LIVE UP TO THE RUMORS.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS YOUR LUCK'S GONNA *RUN OUT*. DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST ME NOW. *HEH HEH...*
KA-SHEEEEN

HEHEH. YOU'RE WASTING TIME, NO. 2!
FWOOOSH
WHOOOSH

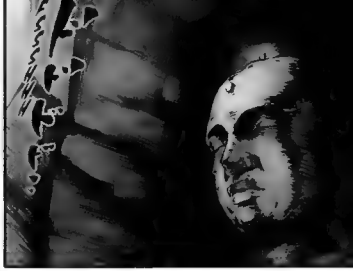
K-DONG
WHAT?! YOU DARE USE ME AS A STEPPING STOOL?!
SON OF A BITCH! YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!

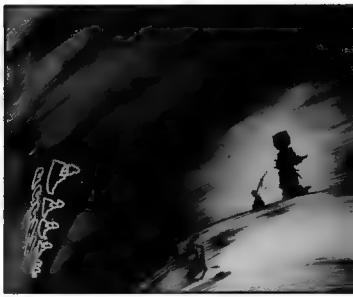
FWIK
WHOOOSH!
!!
KUNAI? HOW PATHETIC!!
SWOOOSH!
A... A SANDAL?!
PLOP!


SPLRRRCH
ザシュ
KIIIN...

HUH...AS AMAZING A FIGHT AS YOU'D EXPECT FROM THE GREAT NO. 2. I'M PROUD TO HAVE FACED YOU IN MY FINAL BATTLE.
BUT IT SEEMS YOU COULDN'T SLICE ME IN TWO WITH JUST ONE HAND.
KLUNK
THE DEFEAT OF ROKUTARO COMES AT A PRICE!
BANG
FORGIVE ME BROTHERS! I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

SHIT!
HEH HEH. A GOOD SHOW, NO. 2. YOU'VE KILLED OUR DEAR ROKUTARO AFTER ALL OUR TIME AND MONEY SPENT RAISING HIM.
PLEASE ALLOW US TO SHOW OUR AMPLE THANKS. RIGHT, BROTHER?
MM!
HEHE, NO. 2, HOW DO YOU PLAN ON FIGHTING US WITHOUT A WEAPON? NOW HOW SHALL WE KILL HIM, BROTHER?
MM.





THE EMPTY SEVEN HAVE BROKEN THEIR CONTRACT WITH NO. 1 AND ARE SCHEMING TO BECOME NO. 1 THEMSELVES.

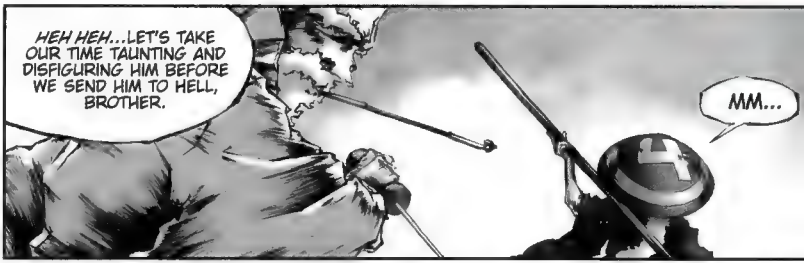
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTING HIM THE SAME AS US.

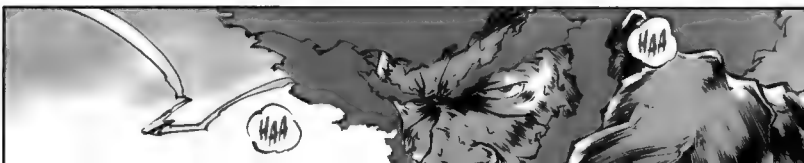
JUST MAKE SURE NO. 2 DIES, *REGARDLESS* OF WHO WINS. IT LOOKS LIKE THE BROTHERS ARE GOING TO WIN THIS MATCH, THOUGH.

NO.
THE AFRO MAN WILL WIN.
HEH...IS THAT RIGHT?
I'M GOING BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN. I'LL LEAVE THIS ONE UP TO YOU.
I'LL DESTROY HIM.
END of #04

# AFRO SAMURAI

#05



FWOOSH!
HERE WE GO, BROTHER FOUR!
SLASH
SLASH
MM!
DOOOOM
D-D-DOOM
SWOOSH!

NICE WORK, BROTHER! YOU MUST'VE BROKEN FIVE OR SIX RIBS!
MM.
IT'S TOO BAD WE HAD TO KILL A MAN OF SUCH TALENT. BUT I SUPPOSE WE HAVE NO CHOICE, DO WE BROTHER?
MM.
KUNK
SWEEEN
CUUUAH
MM!
IT'S THE END!

SPLRT
M...MM...
BROTHER! I'LL STOP HIM!
WHOOOSH
MM!
KRAKK
SCRNCH
BAM

K-POW!!
BLUUACH!!
UWAAA!!
TOOM
EWIK
MM!!!!
SPLEEECH

URRRGH!
URRRAAA!!
URRRRGGH!!!
F-FUCK!
SPLASH!!!

GLARE

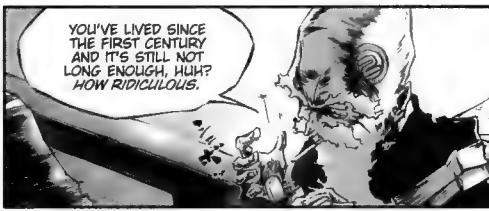
BROTHER FOUR, BROTHER FIVE, ROKUTARO... REST IN PEACE. NAMANDABU NAMANDABU...
BROTHER, IT SEEMS OUR COAXING HAS AWAKENED THE BEAST INSIDE HIM.
THE ASSASSINS CAN'T EVEN RAISE THEIR SWORDS AT HIM.
MOST OF THEM HAVE ALREADY FLED.
VWEEE
THIS HAS BECOME A MEANINGLESS ENDEAVOR. LET US FLEE AS WELL. WE DON'T HAVE MANY YEARS LEFT AHEAD OF US ANYWAY. IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD TO LIVE OUT OUR REMAINING TIME PEACEFULLY IN SOME VILLAGE.
I'VE LIVED LONG ENOUGH...

NO. WE MUST TAKE NO. 1'S POWER...ETERNAL LIFE...*THE DIVINE POWER*...IN ORDER TO GAIN ETERNAL LIFE...TO CONQUER THIS FEAR OF DEATH... *MUTTER MUTTER...*
WHAT?! **ETERNAL LIFE?!!**
YOU MOCK.

HAHAHAHA! DO YOU *REALLY* BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF?! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR GOD-DAMN MIND?!
HA HA HA!

*HMPH.* LAUGH IF YOU WANT TO. I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED IT YET. THE INESCAPABLE FEAR OF DEATH, APPROACHING EVER CLOSER WITH EACH DAY...
CHUHUHUH!

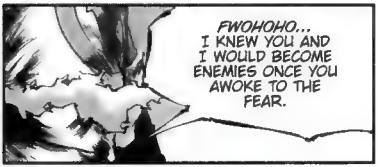
*HMHMHM...* YOU MEAN ROKUTA AND THE OTHERS DIED FOR SUCH A RIDICULOUS FANTASY?! THIS IS A FARCE!

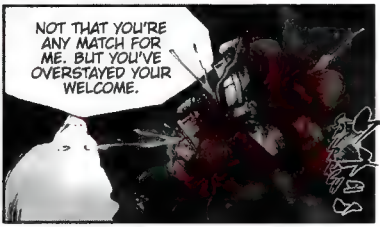

YOU'VE LIVED SINCE THE FIRST CENTURY AND IT'S STILL NOT LONG ENOUGH, HUH? *HOW RIDICULOUS.*

THEN YOU CAN DIE RIGHT NOW.

SPLRRCH

Y...YOU...FOOL! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?! YOU REALLY HAVE GONE MAD!
K-CHAK

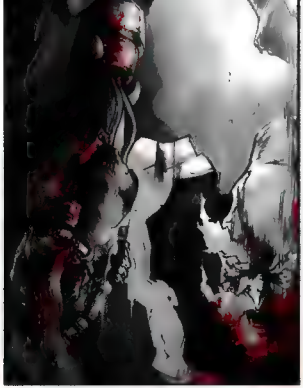

FWOHOHO... I KNEW YOU AND I WOULD BECOME ENEMIES ONCE YOU AWOKE TO THE FEAR.


NOT THAT YOU'RE ANY MATCH FOR ME. BUT YOU'VE OVERSTAYED YOUR WELCOME.

AND BESIDES, BETWEEN YOU AND ME...I NEVER LIKED YOU.

YOU PSYCHOTIC OLD FART!

GUUAH!!



HEHEHEH...
COME ON, NO. 2!

FEELING, PERCEPTION, MENTALITY,
AND CONSCIOUSNESS ARE ALSO LIKE THIS.
FORM IS INDEED EMPTINESS. EMPTINESS IS INDEED FORM.
EMPTINESS NOT DIFFERENT FROM FORM.
FORM IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM EMPTINESS.

THEY: NEITHER ARISE NOR CEASE.

ALL DHARMAS
HAVE THE NATURE OF EMPTINESS.
OH SHARIPUTRA,

THAT THE FIVE SKANDHAS ARE EMPTY, AND FREED FROM SUFFERING.
THE BODHISATTVA AVALOKITESHVARA, WHILE DWELLING IN THE DEEP PERFECTION OF WISDOM, SEES CLEARLY

ABIDES IN THE PERFECTION OF WISDOM,
AND HAS A MIND FREE OF HINDRANCES.
THERE IS NO WISDOM, AND NO ATTAINMENT. THE BODHISATTVA
THERE IS NO SUFFERING, NO ARISING, AND CESSATION, NO PATH
AND NO END TO OLD AGE AND DEATH.
THERE IS NO IGNORANCE, NOR END TO IGNORANCE. THERE IS NO OLD AGE AND DEATH
THERE IS NO FORM, NO FEELING,
NO PERCEPTION, NO MENTALITY, NO CONSCIOUSNESS.
THEY NEITHER INCREASE OR DECREASE. THUS IN EMPTINESS
THEY ARE NEITHER PURE NOR IMPURE.

ON SHARIPUTRA,
AND CONSCIOUSNESS
ARE ALSO LIKE THIS
FEELING, PERCEPTION, MENTALITY
EMPTINESS IS INDEED FORM
FORM IS INDEED EMPTINESS
EMPTINESS NOT DIFFERENT FROM FORM,
FORM IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM EMPTINESS,
AND FREE OF SUFFERING.
THE FIVE SKANDHAS ARE EMPTY
THE BODHISATTVA ABIDES IN THE PERFECTION OF WISDOM,
AND HAS A MIND FREE OF HINDRANCES.
THERE IS NO WISDOM, AND NO ATTAINMENT
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THERE IS NO SUFFERING, NO ARISING, NO CESSATION, NO PATH
THERE IS NO OLD AGE AND DEATH
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THERE IS NO FORM, NO FEELING,
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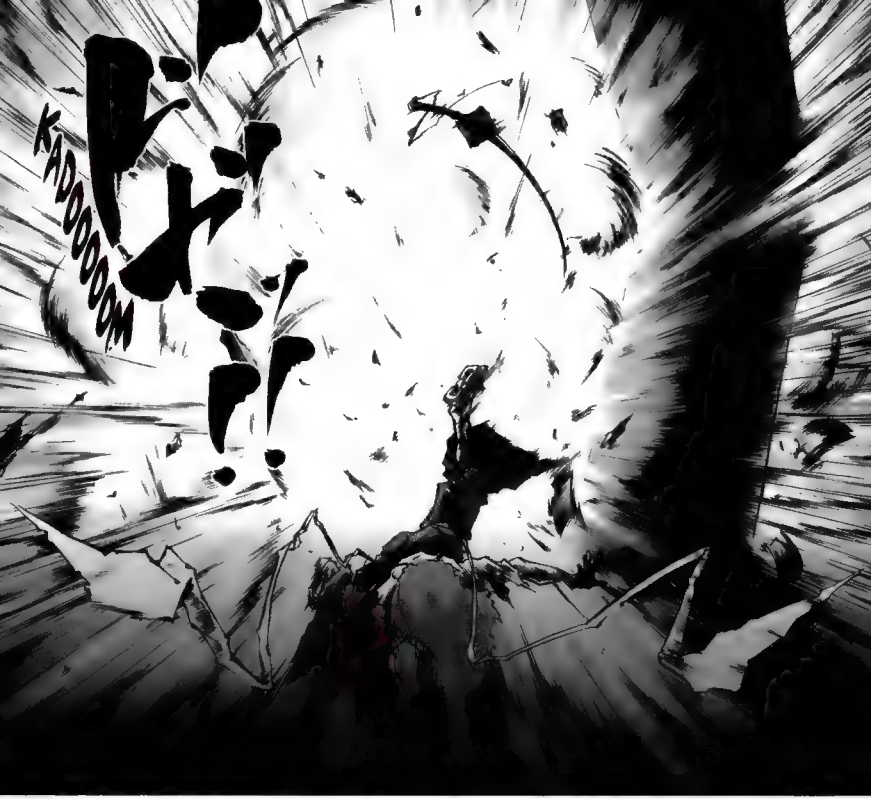
THEY ARE NEITHER PURE NOR IMPURE
THEY NEITHER INCREASE OR DECREASE THUS IN EMPTINESS
THEY NEITHER ARISE NOR PERISH.
ALL DHARMAS HAVE THE NATURE OF EMPTINESS.
CLANG
CLANG

GAAAHAHAHAHA!!
DIE DIE DIE DIE!!!

WHAT CAN A YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPER LIKE YOU DO? I'M THE ONE SUITED TO RULE THIS WORLD!
I SHOULD BE NO. 1!!
PYOOOOO
THMP


KADOOOOOM

KSSSHHH

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S MY DESTINY AS DECREED BY GOD HIMSELF! IT'S TIME TO ACCEPT IT!!
FAREWELL, NO. 2!!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!

KABOOOOOOM

WOOOOO

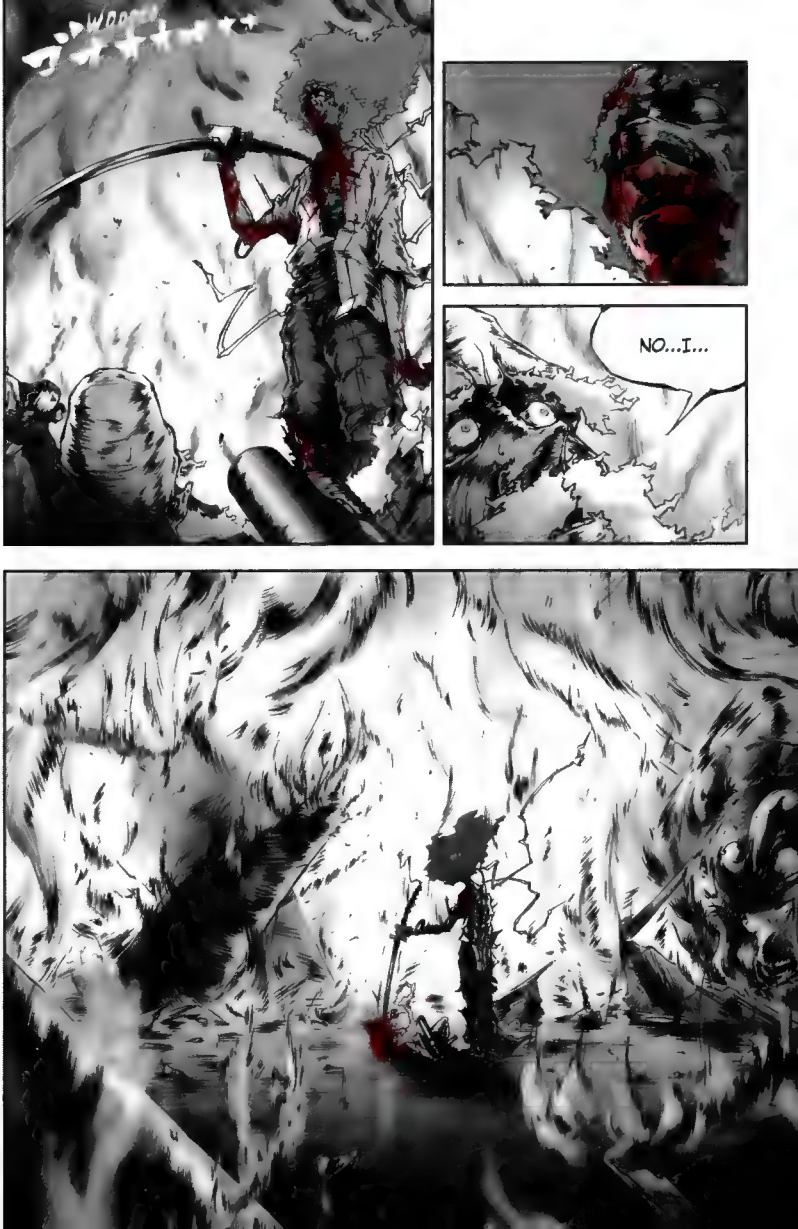
UGHHH...

WHAT'S THIS...*FRIGHTENED*, ARE YOU? YOU'RE STARING FACE-TO-FACE WITH *DEATH*. ONLY THE CHOSEN FEW CAN EVER HOPE TO ESCAPE THAT FEAR. *SADLY*, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WEREN'T ONE OF THEM.

CLICK
PSH! OUT OF BULLETS AT A TIME LIKE THIS? YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DIE, NO. 2. I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT...
CRNCH
LIKE THIS!!!
WHOOSH
HEHEHE...WHEN YOU GET TO THE OTHER SIDE, SAY HELLO TO MY BROTHERS.

HEHEHE...AS LONG AS I HAVE THE HEADBAND, TAKING OUT NO. 1 WILL BE A CAKE-WALK! HE STILL THINKS I'M ON HIS SIDE.
BAM!!
AT LAST, I WILL BE A GOD!!
WH-WH-WH..! WHAT?!
UWA! WON'T YOU EVER JUST DIE?!
SMACK!
GURRR GLE
URRRK
CRACK
K-CHINK

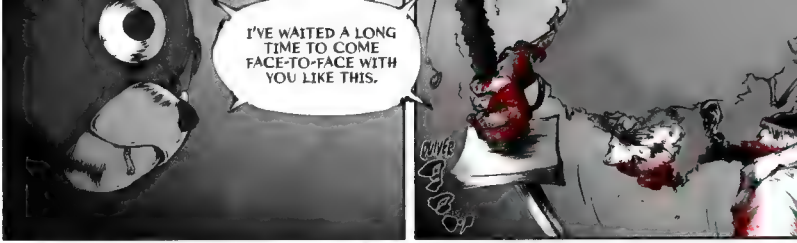
CRRRACK
GAH!!
NOOO!
MY PRECIOUS
ARM!!
AH...!


WOOSH
NO...I...

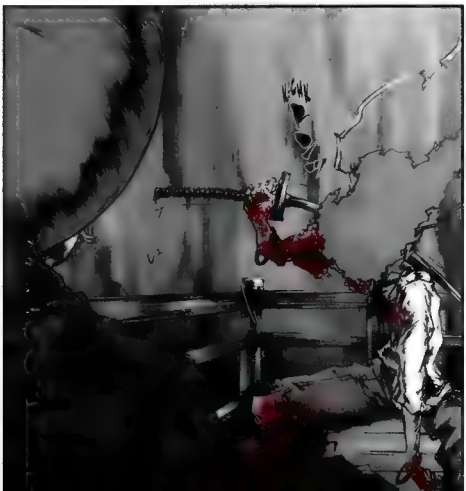
FSSSSHHHH
FSSSSHHHHH

HA4
HA4
HA4
HA4
LONG TIME NO SEE, AFRO.

OR NO, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD CALL YOU NO. 2 NOW.
D-DOOM


I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME TO COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH YOU LIKE THIS.
SLIVER

I'VE GONE ON LIVING FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF *KILLING YOU,* EVEN IF YOU'VE THROWN AWAY YOUR NAME IN FAVOR OF A LABEL, "NO. 2"...
MY HATRED FOR YOU REMAINS *UNCHANGED.*


LET US BEGIN, AFRO.
WHOOSH

SLASH
ALL THE *LIVES* YOU'VE TAKEN JUST TO FULFILL YOUR OWN PERSONAL VENDETTA...
...ALL OF THE *HATRED* YOU'VE SPAWNED BECAUSE OF IT...
SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE.

KASHWEEEN!!!
BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME.
YOUR DEATH IS FATED TO BE FAR MORE AGONIZING, *ROASTING* ON FLAMES OF HATRED.
DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE PUT DOWN EASY, AFRO. THE NEXT TIME WE MEET...
WHOOSH
THAT WILL BE THE TIME.

END OF #05

# Translation Notes

## *Chapter 1*

*Page 20*
In the Japanese, the bandit leader scoffs at Afro for attempting an *"iai"* with such a long sword. Iai is a technique in which the samurai unsheathes his sword and slices his opponent all in one swift, fluid motion, not unlike a western quick-draw. *Iaidō* is a martial art still practiced today.

*Page 25*
"Brother" is derived from the Japanese *"ani-ja."*

*Page 29*
*"Jii-sama"* or "grandfather."

*Page 31*
The name "Brother One" is derived from the Japanese "Ichi-no-ji," meaning "the digit 1."

*Page 33*
*Mt. Sumeru* - A legendary mountain said to tower over the center of the Earth and serves as a meeting place for the gods. Also known as *Shumisen.*

## *Chapter 2*

*Page 43*
*Tecchisen* - A legendary mountain from the Buddhist world map. While Sumeru was found in the center of the Earth, *Tecchisen* lay on the very edge of it. Also known as Cakravada Mountain.

*Page 47*
*Oden* - A type of hotpot stew popular during the cold months.

*Page 49*
*Occhan* - A colloquial term of endearment for an elderly person, like "pops."

*Page 54*
*Daikon* - A large Japanese radish used in *oden.*

## *Chapter 3*

*Page 76*
"Wicked" from the word *"sugee,"* a modern colloquialism meaning "amazing" or "cool" (from *"sugoi"*).

*Oshou-san* - A Buddhist priest of high rank.

*Page 77*
"Mother" - from *"kaa-san."*

*Page 87*
"Geezer brigade" taken from *"jijii-domo."*

## *Chapter 4*

*Page 106*
"O.G.-samas" from *"jii-sama-tachi."*

*Page 112*
*Rokuta* is also known as "Brother Six" in the anime version of *Afro Samurai.* The Kanji for "Rokuta" are in fact the kanji for "six" (*"roku"*) and *"ta,"* a kanji common in male names.

*Page 115*
*Ryou* is an old type of Japanese coin. Evidently it was worth a lot more than the modern yen.

*Page 125*
*Kunai* - Throwing knives.

*Page 128*
Brother Four's name in Japanese is *"Shi no Ji"* following the pattern for all the monk brothers' names, with *"shi"* meaning "four" and *"no ji"* meaning "the digit" or "the letter." The only difference is that in Brother Four's case, the *"shi"* is written with the kanji for "death," also pronounced "shi." So it looks like 死の字 instead of 四の字. The pun is lost in English, although an alternative translation could be "Brother Shi," which a fraction of readers would likely understand, since the four/death connection is one of the more well-spread factoids of Japanese cultural minutiae.

# HEART SUTRA

The Heart Sutra is one of the most well-known sutras in Buddhism and is primarily chanted by Zen sects in East Asian Buddhism. As the shortest sutra, it is said to perfectly express the wisdom of Buddha in condensed form, focusing on the Buddhist doctrines of emptiness and non-attachment.

## *Chapter 5*

***Page 144***

*144.1*
***Kan-ji-zai-bo-satsu Gyô-jin-han-nya-ha-ra-mit-ta-ji***
The Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, while dwelling in the deep perfection of wisdom, sees clearly

***Shô-ken-go-un-kai-kuu Do-is-sai-ku-yaku Sha-ri-shi***
that the five skandhas are empty, and free of suffering.

*144.2*
***Shiki-fu-i-kuu Ku-fu-i-shiki***
Form is not different from emptiness, emptiness not different from form.

***Shiki-soku-ze-kuu ku-soku-ze-shiki***
Form is indeed emptiness. Emptiness is indeed form.

***Ju-sô-gyô-shiki Yaku-bu-nyo-ze***
Feeling, perception, mentality, and consciousness are also like this.

*144.3*
***Sha-ri-shi***
Oh Shariputra,

***Ze-sho-hô-kuu-sô***
all dharmas have the nature of emptiness.

*144.4*
***Fu-shô-fu-metsu***
They neither arise nor perish.

*144.5*
***Fu-ku-fu-jô Fu-zô-fu-gen Ze-ko-kuu-chuu***
They are neither pure nor impure. They neither increase or decrease. Thus in emptiness

***mu-shiki-mu-ju-sô-gyô-shiki-kai***
there is no form, no feeling, no perception, no mentality, no consciousness.

***mu-mu-myô-yaku-mu-mu-myô-jin Nai-shi-mu-rô-shi***
There is no ignorance nor end to ignorance. There is no old age and death...

***Yaku-mu-rô-shi-jin Mu-ku-shuu-metsu-dô***
And no end to old age and death. There is no suffering, no arising, no cessation, no path.

***Mu-chi-yaku-mu-toku-i Bo-dai-sat-ta***
There is no wisdom, and no attainment. The Bodhisattva

***E-han-nya-ha-ra-mit-ta-ko***
abides in the perfection of wisdom, and has a mind free of hindrances.

***Page 145***

*145.1*
***Shô-ken-go-un-kai-kuu***
The five skandhas are empty

***Do-is-sai-ku-yaku Sha-ri-shi***
and free of suffering.

***Shiki-fu-i-kuu Ku-fu-i-shiki***
Form is not different from emptiness, emptiness not different from form.

*145.2*
***Shiki-soku-ze-kuu***
Form is indeed emptiness.

***kuu-soku-ze-shiki***
Emptiness is indeed form.

*145.3*
***Ju-sô-gyô-shiki***
Feeling, perception, mentality

***Yaku-bu-nyo-ze***
and consciousness are also like this.

***Sha-ri-shi***
Oh Shariputra,

*145.4*
***Ze-sho-hô-kuu-sô Fu-shô-fu-metsu***
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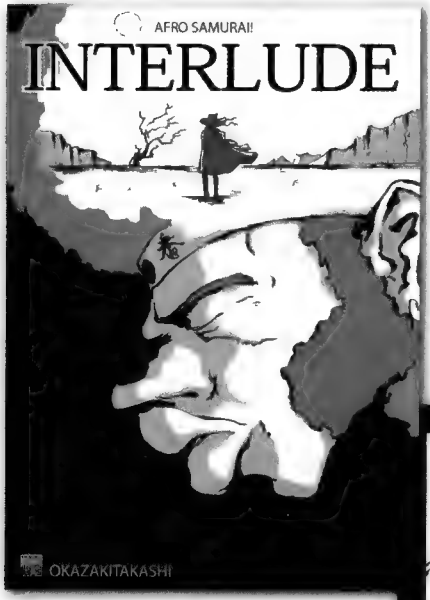
There is no wisdom, and no attainment.

***Bo-dai-sat-ta E-han-nya-ha-ra-mit-ta-ko***
The Bodhisattva abides in the perfection of wisdom, and has a mind free of hindrances.

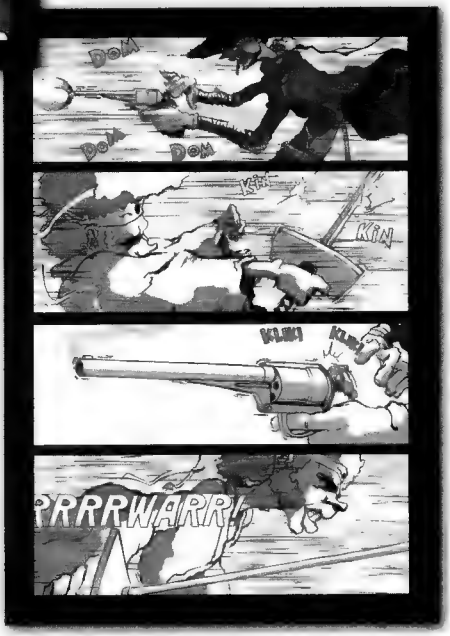
# SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

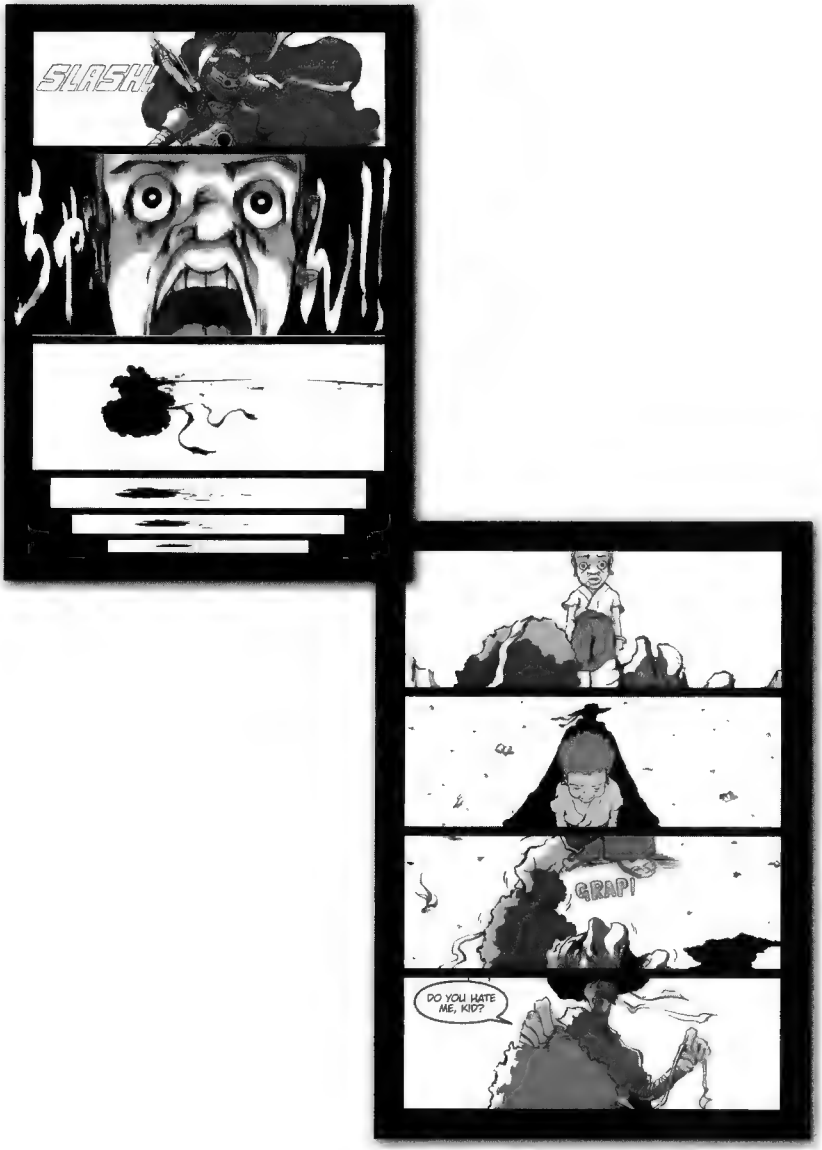
## ORIGINAL DOUJINSHI PAGES




*AFRO SAMURAI* first began life as a *doujinshi* series in Japan before making the leap to animation and then back to manga. Presented here are eight of Okazaki-sensei's original Afro Samurai *doujinshi* pages featuring the iconic sequence that made Afro the bad-ass mutha he is today.

CLICK!


DOM
DOM
DOM
KLIK!
KLIK!
KLIK!
PRRRWARR!


SLASH!
GRAP!
DO YOU HATE ME, KID?

I'M GOING TO BE NO.1 FROM NOW ON.
BUT TELL YOU WHAT...
YOU CAN BE NO. 2.
COME FIND ME WHEN YOU'RE READY.

# CREATOR BIO

## TAKASHI OKAZAKI

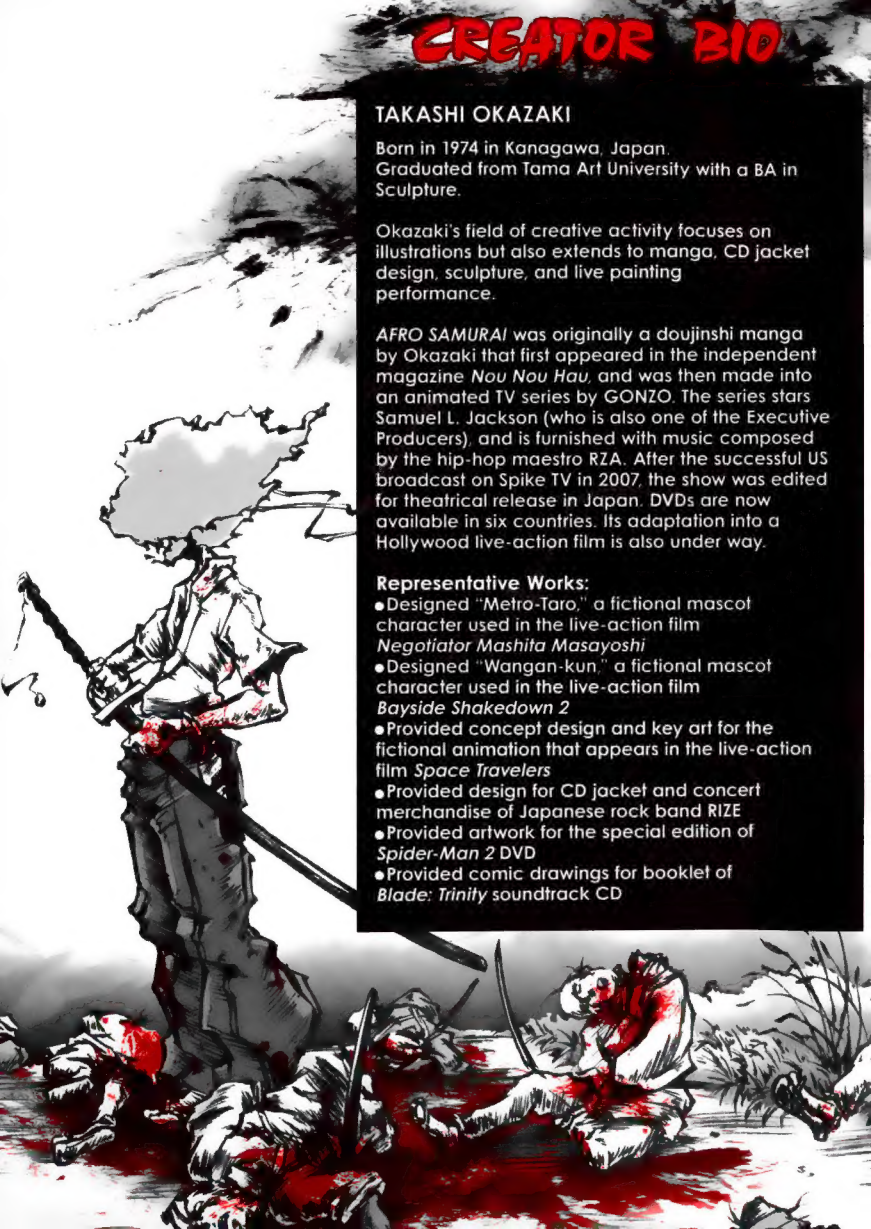
Born in 1974 in Kanagawa, Japan.
Graduated from Tama Art University with a BA in Sculpture.

Okazaki's field of creative activity focuses on illustrations but also extends to manga, CD jacket design, sculpture, and live painting performance.

*AFRO SAMURAI* was originally a doujinshi manga by Okazaki that first appeared in the independent magazine *Nou Nou Hau*, and was then made into an animated TV series by GONZO. The series stars Samuel L. Jackson (who is also one of the Executive Producers), and is furnished with music composed by the hip-hop maestro RZA. After the successful US broadcast on Spike TV in 2007, the show was edited for theatrical release in Japan. DVDs are now available in six countries. Its adaptation into a Hollywood live-action film is also under way.

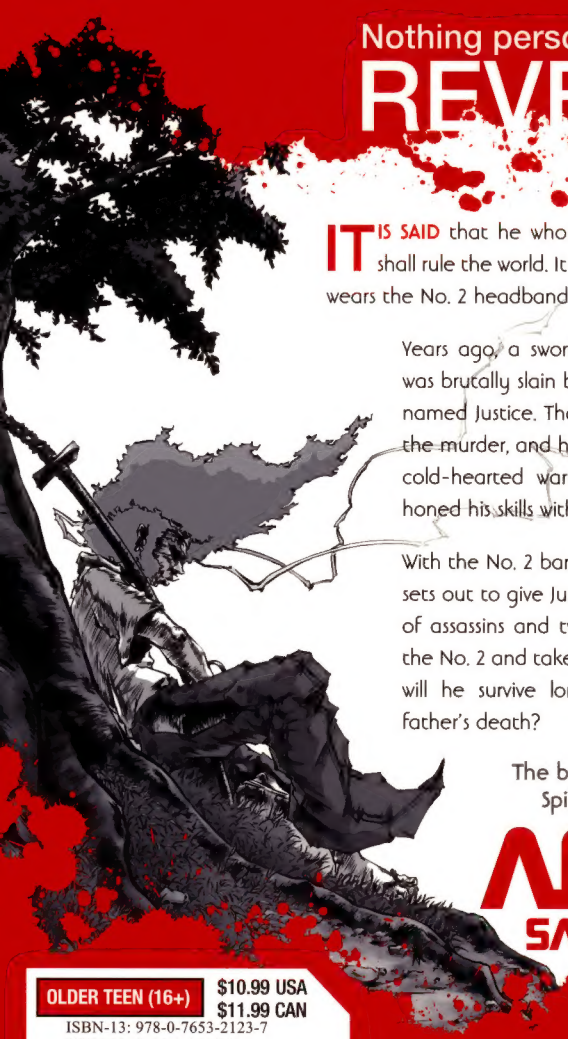
**Representative Works:**

- Designed "Metro-Taro," a fictional mascot character used in the live-action film *Negotiator Mashita Masayoshi*
- Designed "Wangan-kun," a fictional mascot character used in the live-action film *Bayside Shakedown 2*
- Provided concept design and key art for the fictional animation that appears in the live-action film *Space Travelers*
- Provided design for CD jacket and concert merchandise of Japanese rock band RIZE
- Provided artwork for the special edition of *Spider-Man 2* DVD
- Provided comic drawings for booklet of *Blade: Trinity* soundtrack CD



Nothing personal . . . it's just

# REVENGE



**IT IS SAID** that he who wears the No. 1 headband shall rule the world. It is also said that only he who wears the No. 2 headband may challenge the No. 1.

Years ago, a swordsman who wore the No. 1 was brutally slain by a power-hungry gunman named Justice. The swordsman's son witnessed the murder, and has grown up to become the cold-hearted warrior Afro Samurai. Afro has honed his skills with a single purpose in mind.

With the No. 2 band around his forehead, Afro sets out to give Justice his due. But with scores of assassins and two-bit warriors eager to kill the No. 2 and take his place as top contender, will he survive long enough to avenge his father's death?

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